Ed: Oldfield
Rector of Llysfaen
1835

Saturday Even.g.

Oct.r 29. 1835

Baptized my little Nephews

Edwin John at Bodleyfoyd.

Saturday Even.g. Oct.r 29.th 1836

Baptized

Edward Thomas at Bodleyfoyd

Saturday Even.g. Dec.r 9.th 1837

Baptized at Bodleyfoyd

Arthur, Son of Edwin & Mary Ann Bidfield. Born Wednesday 6.th inst.

Edward Thomas Bidfield

Lieutenant 2.d W. India Regt.

died at Kingston Barracks, Jamaica

after an illness of Seven days only

of Typhus fever in the 21.st Year of his

Copner Son of Edwin & Mar
Ann Oldfield born 24.
August 24 1843. baptized
at Bradley by the same Evening

Nov. 5. 1849. Baptized at
Farm, John Edward Oldfie
Son of Thomas & Janet Oldfie
born 20th Oct.

A MANUAL

FOR

VISITING THE SICK;

CONTAINING

SCRIPTURE EXTRACTS,

SUITABLE ADDRESSES, MEDITATIONS AND PRAYERS,

TOGETHER WITH THE

PROPER OFFICES,

ACCORDING TO THE RITUAL OF

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND.

"I WAS SICK AND YE VISITED ME."—*Matt.* XXV. 36.

BY A CLERGYMAN.

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PREFACE.

Among the various duties that devolve on a parochial minister, next to the great public one of preaching the Gospel, there is none of greater importance than that of visiting the sick. This duty is also, on several accounts, the most difficult and embarrassing which a young minister especially, has to discharge. Having perhaps, hitherto been spared the scenes which a sick chamber presents, on his first entering upon the discharge of this affecting office he may be so overcome at witnessing the bodily affliction of the person who now needs his prayers and instructions as to be almost unfitted to render the sufferer the spiritual assistance which his condition requires.

But however this may be, the duty is in the majority of cases, of a most arduous and trying nature, especially when the solemn responsibility attached to it, is taken seriously and fully into consideration. It is then, that the conscientious minister will most deeply feel the awful nature of his charge, and

consider that he is appointed to watch for souls, as one that must give an account. It is then, that this thought will press with an almost overwhelming force upon his mind:—"An immortal being whose day of grace may be drawing to a close, is now looking to me for that admonition and instruction which may be the means of saving his soul: an opportunity now presents itself of my pointing the way to salvation to one, for whose eternal safety I am pledged to use every exertion, and upon the faithful discharge of my duty at this critical moment, his everlasting welfare may depend!" Under these impressions, a conscientious minister will be anxious that nothing which it is possible for human agency to effect, should by his default be omitted, in order that a sinner may be brought to true repentance, and his peace secured, before he go hence and be no more seen.

The considerations which give so momentous an importance to the right discharge of the duty in question, are very strikingly stated by the pious *Bishop of Sodor and Man*, in his *Parochialia*, from which the following is an extract: "If one seriously considers how the generality of Christians go out of the world: how ill prepared for eternity; and how seldom such as recover, make that good use of sickness which God designs by such visitations, one cannot but wish, that such as have the care of souls, would think in good earnest, how to improve such momentous occasions to the best advantage. And

surely, a good pastor must have a great concern upon his spirits, when any of his flock are visited with sickness. For if the sickness shall be unto death, here is a soul in a few days to enter upon a state of endless happiness, or endless misery—a thought which should make one's heart to tremble. But if the sick person shall recover, and is not bettered by his sickness, here is perhaps, the last opportunity—which God may afford that man, of seeing the error of his ways—for ever lost; and where the blame will lie, God himself has told us. Ezek. xxxiii. *v.* 6. Why.....what could the watchman do? He could at least, deliver his own soul:—but he must do a great deal more.....It mightily concerns such as have the care of souls, not to lose such occasions of doing the greatest good to the souls of men.....A good Pastor will not always stay till he is sent for. He knows that the repentance of the *dead*, comes *too late*, and that the fear of death, which is to determine a man's state to all eternity, will make men willing to hear reproof and to take advice. Such an opportunity therefore, he will not lose, if he can possibly help it."

The design of these introductory remarks, however, is not to state the nature or importance of this solemn branch of a minister's duty—a duty, which from the lamentably prevailing neglect of religious instruction in a large portion of our multiplied population during health, is of the most arduous kind—

but to offer a few explanatory words in reference to the Work which the author now respectfully offers for the assistance of his younger brethren in the discharge of this solemn office. Its origin was simply the want which he himself felt at the commencement of his ministerial avocations, of some convenient and appropriate manual of devotional exercises for his assistance in the chambers of the sick. It is true, the Church has provided in her ritual, *an Order of Visitation:* but it must be admitted, that it would be a grievous restraint upon a Minister to be confined in his private ministrations in this particular branch of his duty, to any form, however excellent. The cases are so various, and the Spiritual wants of individuals so dissimilar, that no one form, can possibly be adhered to. The sixty-seventh canon, indeed, sets the matter in a clear light, and shews that with respect to such ministers as were licensed to preach, this restriction was never intended:—a licensed preacher is there left to suit his address and form of supplication, to the circumstances of the case. Such a one should, indeed, in the language of the Apostle, go to the habitations of the sick and afflicted, "in the fulness of the blessing of the Gospel of Christ."

In order to furnish some additional aid for the discharge of this weighty duty, several collections of prayers have at different times been published, not indeed, with *authority,* but in order to supply a want which was generally felt. Much that is excellent is

doubtless, to be found in each of these Works, and it is by no means the intention of the author of the present Manual to enumerate their defects : he simply offers the present Work to the use of such of his brethren as may deem it better calculated than some former publications, to answer the end proposed. It will be found to consist of Scripture Extracts, Addresses, Meditations, and Prayers adapted to various conditions, and circumstances, in which the Sick and Afflicted may be found by the minister of Christ. To some he may have to propound even the first elements of Gospel truth : for such, it is trusted the first three Meditations and Prayers may be of essential service, as embodying the great doctrines of the Corruption of Human Nature, the necessity of Repentance, and of Faith in Christ, as the only Saviour ; and as displaying the strictness and spirituality of God's law, and the need of an Atonement, and of the Holy Spirit, to enlighten the mind, and sanctify the heart.

The Prayers for the most part, are somewhat *longer* than those commonly given in such Works ; for, although it is by no means advisable to protract a devotional exercise, so as to weary the Sick, yet it should be of a sufficient continuance to fix the attention and engage the mind. It was desirable that the Work should be of a conveniently portable size, and yet contain what might in most instances, be sufficient for a Clergyman in the course of his pri-

vate, parochial duties; on this account, the *Office for Private Baptism of Infants*, is added to those for *Visiting the Sick*, and for *Administering the Sacrament*. Little has been attempted in the shape of directions for *conversing* with the sick; this would have swelled the book to too large a size; but the author begs to mention Sir J. Stonhouse's "Sick Man's Friend," as a Work to which he is much indebted, and as furnishing most valuable hints on this point, and which well deserves the attention which that pious writer recommends to its contents when he quotes from the poet;

"Nocturnâ versate manu, versate diurnâ."

With regard to the present publication, its author would adopt a remark of the same excellent writer and say that "many of these Prayers are to be considered rather as suggesting materials for prayer, than as forms always to be used without any alteration; variations may sometimes be necessary according to the capacity, disposition, and state, of the persons for whose benefit they are proposed."

It is by no means pretended that the Prayers contained in this Work, are altogether original compositions, though several of them are so: and the others, from whatever source the leading sentiments, were taken, have been re-written, and in most instances, considerably enlarged: and it is trusted, the whole will be found scriptural in doctrine, sufficiently

simple in diction, and adapted to express the supplications of a penitent who sues for mercy, and to give utterance to the more general wants, desires, and petitions of the afflicted in a suitable manner, at the Throne of Grace.

It is only necessary to add, that the Work may be serviceable to private Christians, as well as to those whose special office it is to visit, instruct, and comfort, the afflicted in their distress. To those whose piety and charity may incline them to lend their assistance in this "labour of love," this Manual may be useful in a similar way; while others may select for themselves, from the meditations and prayers which it contains, some adapted to their own particular wants, feelings, and circumstances. May the Great Shepherd and Bishop of souls approve the design; and may the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, accompany the use of the book with His gracious influence, and then this humble effort will be effectually blessed to the good of the Church, and to the glory of God.

CANON LXVII.

"When any Person is dangerously sick in any Parish, the "Minister, or Curate having knowledge thereof, shall resort "unto him or her, (if the disease be not known, or probably "suspected to be infectious) to instruct and comfort them in "their distress, according to the order of the Communion "Book, if he be no Preacher, or if he be a Preacher, then as "he shall think most needful and convenient."

AN ADDRESS

AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF SICKNESS.

EVERY disease, sickness, or infirmity, gives the soul warning to prepare for the last great change. Sickness is usually the forerunner of death: "Oh, therefore, that men were wise, that they understood this, that they would consider their latter end." How true is the saying of that faithful servant of God, holy Job: "Man that is born of a woman, is of few days and full of trouble." Afflictions, however, do not spring out of the dust. There is a Power above that has ordered all these things. God's wisdom is infinite; therefore, ought we humbly to submit ourselves to his afflicting hand; his justice will not spare the guilty; therefore, our chief concern should be to obtain pardon of our sins, that our souls may be saved. God who is rich in mercy towards thoughtless sinners, often afflicts the body, in order to cure the soul. It is the case with thousands, that they have never thought seriously of their condition as sinners, and have never inquired after the way of salvation, till sickness or affliction came upon them. "In the day

of adversity" then, it behoves us to "consider:" we should consider our ways; we should seek for the light of God's word, and pray for the guidance of his Spirit, that we may be converted, and brought into a state of preparation for eternity. If death should come upon us before the great work of repentance and conversion is effected in our souls, we perish for ever; for there is no work nor device in the grave whither we go. As the tree falleth, so it will lie. The body will lie in the grave till the resurrection-day, and the spirit will either ascend to God who gave it, or be consigned to the prison of darkness to await its final doom. "Make, then, no long tarrying to turn to the Lord, and put not off from day to day." The present may be the only opportunity that divine mercy may ever afford you: suffer it not to pass unimproved, suffer not the enemy of your soul to deceive you any longer with false hopes, and vain expectations. Inquire then, instantly, what you must do to be saved? and how this affliction may be best improved for your everlasting benefit. Has it then, led you to proper thoughts of sin? Has it humbled you, by affecting you with a sense of your own depravity in particular? Have you inquired into the special cause of this particular affliction? Have you been led by it to see more the vanity of this world, and of the enjoyments of time and sense? Have you been led to think more seriously of death and

eternity, and to consider how you stand perpared for your everlasting state? Has it endeared the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ to your soul? Have you been led under a deep sense of your own blindness and weakness, to see your need of the aids of the Holy Spirit? Have you been more diligent in searching the Scriptures? Have you learned patience and submission under the hand of God, in these sufferings? Have you learned in your affliction to be thankful for past and remaining mercies? And lastly, have you learned a lesson of sympathy and compassion towards your fellow creatures? This is a season for diligent inquiry into all these important matters: defer not (I pray you) the all-important business. Redeem the time: you know not what shall be on the morrow; even this night thy soul may be required of thee: "set then, thine house in order." Repent, and bring forth fruits meet for repentance. Pray that God would work in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. Now you are visited with sickness, cry for help to the great Physician of body and soul. Make the only Saviour of sinners your friend. Cast yourself upon the mercy of God in Christ Jesus. Seek unto him with your whole heart; seek a better acquaintance with his will; be anxious to know your true state, that you may exercise a godly sorrow for your sins and past neglects, and may attain unto a state of hope and peace before you go hence and be no more seen.

SELECT

PASSAGES OF SCRIPTURE.

[*One or more of these may be read to the sick person, and form the subject of exhortation and instruction, as the case may seem to require.*]

FROM that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent; for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.—*Matt.* iv. 17.

Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. *Luke* xiii. 3.

Come and let us return unto the Lord: for He hath torn, and He will heal us: He hath smitten, and He will bind us up.—*Hos.* vi. 1.

If we sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, the Righteous; and He is the propitiation for our sins.—1 *John* i. 9.

This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.—1 *Tim.* i. 15.

Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life.—*John* vi. 68.

Lord, I believe: help Thou mine unbelief. *Mark* ix. 24.

There is none other name given under heaven, whereby we can be saved, but only the name of the Lord Jesus.—*Acts* iv. 12.

He that spared not His own Son, but delivered him up for us all; how shall He not with him also freely give us all things?—*Rom.* viii. 32.

For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him; wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another. 1 *Thess.* v. 9.

I will seek unto God, unto God will I commit my cause, which doeth great things, and unsearchable; marvellous things without number. *Job.* v. 8, and 9.

No temptation hath taken you, but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will, with the temptation, also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.—1 *Cor.* x. 13.

The Lord is good unto them that wait for Him, to the soul that seeketh Him. It is good that a man should both hope, and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord. For the Lord will not cast off for ever; but though He cause grief, yet will He have compasssion according to the multitude of his mercies. For He doth not afflict willingly, nor grieve the children of men. Wherefore doth a living man complain—a man for the punishment of his sins? Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the Lord. Let us lift up our heart with our hands, unto God in the heavens.—*Lam.* iii. 25, &c.

I am He, saith the Lord, who blotteth out thy transgressions.—*Isaiah* xliii. 25.

Though your sins be as scarlet, yet shall they be as white as wool.—*Isaiah* i. 18.

The blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth from all sin.—1 *John*, i. 7.

For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.—2 *Cor.* v. 22.

Christ gave himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity.—*Titus* ii. 14.

Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.—*John* iii. 3.

Make you a new heart, and a new spirit: for why will ye die?—*Ezek.* xviii. 31.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.—*Psalm* li. 10.

A new heart will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you; and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and will give you a heart of flesh.—*Ezek.* xxxvi. 26.

Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of of His might.—*Eph.* vi. 10.

I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee: yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.—*Isaiah* xli. 10.

Pray without ceasing.—1 *Thess.* v. 17.

Lord, teach us to pray.—*Luke* xi. 1.

I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and supplications.—*Zech.* xii. 10.

Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.—*Rom.* x. 13.

One thing is needful.—*Luke* x. 42.

Seek first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness.—*Matt.* vi. 33.

What is a man profited if he should gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?—*Matt.* xvi. 26.

Without holiness, no man shall see the Lord. *Heb.* xii. 14.

The just shall live by faith.—*Rom.* i. 17.

With the heart man believeth unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.—*Rom.* x. 10.

God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.—*John* iii. 16.

Wherefore, let them that suffer according to the will of God, commit the keeping of their souls to Him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.—1 *Peter*, iv. 19.

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time.—1 *Peter*, v. 6.

The God of all grace, who hath called us unto His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered awhile, make you perfect, 'stablish, strengthen, settle you.—1 *Peter*, v. 10,

Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin

which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.

My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of Him; for whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth. If ye endure chastening God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the Father chasteneth not?

Now, no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous; nevertheless, afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruits of righteousness, unto them which are exercised thereby. Wherefore, lift up the hands which hang down and the feeble knees: and make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed.—*Heb.* xii. 1, 11, &c.

Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance; for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing. For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of, but the sorrow of the world worketh death.—2 *Cor.* vii. 9.

But we glory in tribulations also; knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope; and hope maketh not ashamed, because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost. *Rom.* v. 3.

For which cause we faint not: but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen, are temporal; but the things which are not seen, are eternal. For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened.

Whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord; wherefore, we labour that whether present or absent, we may be accepted of Him.

We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men.

Now, then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us; we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. 2 *Cor.* iv. 16; and v. 1, &c.

[*One of the following portions of the Psalms may occasionally be read as a suitable introduction to Prayer: the Psalm and the Prayer should be selected with reference to the spiritual condition of the person visited.*]

PSALM V.

PONDER my words, O Lord: consider my meditation.

O hearken thou unto the voice of my calling, my King and my God: for unto Thee will I make my prayer.

My voice shalt Thou hear betimes, O Lord: early in the morning will I direct my prayer unto Thee, and will look up.

Lead me, O Lord, in thy righteousness, because of mine enemies: make Thy way plain before my face.

And let all them that put their trust in Thee rejoice: they shall ever be giving thanks, because Thou defendest them; they that love Thy name shall be joyful in Thee.

PSALM XXIII.

THE Lord is my shepherd: therefore can I lack nothing.

He shall feed me in a green pasture: and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.

He shall convert my soul; and bring me forth

in the paths of righteousness, for His name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff comfort me.

Thou shalt prepare a table before me against them that trouble me: Thou hast anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full.

Thy loving kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

PSALM XXV.

UNTO Thee, O Lord, will I lift up my soul: my God, I have put my trust in Thee: O let me not be confounded, neither let mine enemies triumph over me.

Shew me Thy ways, O Lord: and teach me Thy paths.

Lead me forth in Thy truth, and teach me: for Thou art the God of my salvation; in Thee hath been my hope all the day long.

Call to remembrance, O Lord, Thy tender mercies: and Thy loving kindness, which have been ever of old.

O remember not the sins and offences of my youth: but according to Thy mercy, think Thou upon me, O Lord, for Thy goodness.

Gracious and righteous is the Lord: therefore, will He teach sinners in the way. Them that

are meek shall He guide in judgment: and such as are gentle, them shall He teach his way.

All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth: unto such as keep His covenant and His testimonies.

For Thy name's sake, O Lord: be merciful unto my sin, for it is great.

What man is he that feareth the Lord: him shall He teach in the way that He shall choose.

The secret of the Lord is among them that fear Him: and He will shew them His covenant.

Mine eyes are ever looking unto the Lord: for He shall pluck my feet out of the net.

Turn Thee unto me, and have mercy upon me: for I am desolate, and in misery. The sorrows of my heart are enlarged: O bring Thou me out of my troubles.

Look upon my adversity and misery: and forgive me all my sin.

O keep my soul, and deliver me: let me not be confounded, for I have put my trust in Thee.

PSALM XXXII.

BLESSED is he whose unrighteousness is forgiven: and whose sin is covered.

Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth no sin: and in whose spirit there is no guile.

For while I held my tongue: my bones consumed away through my daily complaining.

For thy hand is heavy upon me day and night.

I will acknowledge my sin unto Thee: and mine unrighteousness have I not hid.

I said, I will confess my sins unto the Lord: and so Thou forgavest the wickedness of my sin.

For this, shall every one that is godly make his prayer unto Thee, in a time when Thou mayest be found: but in the great water floods they shall not come nigh him.

PSALM LI.

HAVE mercy upon me, O God, according to Thy loving-kindness: according unto the multitude of Thy tender mercies, blot out my transgressions.

Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity: and cleanse me from my sin.

For I acknowledge my transgression: and my sin is ever before me.

Behold, Thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part Thou shalt make me to know wisdom.

Hide Thy face from my sins: and blot out all mine iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God: and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from Thy presence: and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation: and uphold me with Thy free spirit: then will I

teach transgressors Thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto Thee.

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise.

PSALM LXXVII.

I CRIED unto God with my voice, even unto God with my voice; and He gave ear unto me.

In the day of my trouble, I sought the Lord: my sore ran in the night and ceased not; my soul refused to be comforted.

I remembered God and was troubled: I complained, and my spirit was overwhelmed.

Thou holdest mine eyes waking: I am so troubled that I cannot speak.

I have considered the days of old: the years of ancient times.

I call to remembrance my song in the night: I commune with mine own heart: and my spirit made diligent search.

Will the Lord cast off for ever? doth His promise fail for evermore?

Hath God forgotten to be gracious? hath He in anger shut up his tender mercies?

And I said, this is my infirmity; but I will remember the years of the right hand of the Most High.

I will remember the works of the Lord: surely, I will remember Thy wonders of old.

Thou art the God that doest wonders: Thou hast declared Thy strength among the people.

PSALM LXXXVI.

BOW down Thine ear, O Lord, and hear me: for I am poor, and in misery.

Preserve Thou my soul: my God, save Thy servant that putteth his trust in Thee.

Be merciful unto me, O Lord: for I will call daily upon Thee.

Comfort the soul of Thy servant: for unto Thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.

For Thou Lord, art good and gracious: and of great mercy unto all them that call upon Thee.

Give ear, Lord, unto my prayer: and ponder the voice of my humble desires.

In the time of my trouble, I will call upon Thee: for Thou hearest me.

There is none like unto Thee, O Lord: there is not one that can do as Thou doest.

For Thou art great, and doest wondrous things: Thou art God alone.

Teach me Thy way, O Lord, and I will walk in Thy truth: O knit my heart unto Thee, that I may fear Thy Name.

I will thank Thee, O Lord, my God, with all my heart: and I will praise Thy Name for evermore.

PSALM XCIV.

BLESSED is the man whom Thou chastenest, O Lord: and teachest him in the law.

That Thou mayest give him patience in time of adversity.

For the Lord will not fail his people: neither will He forsake his inheritance.

If the Lord had not helped me: it had not failed but my soul had been put to silence.

But when I said, my foot hath slipt: Thy mercy, O Lord held me up.

In the multitude of the sorrows that I had in my heart: Thy comforts have refreshed my soul.

The Lord is my refuge: and my God is the strength of my confidence.

PSALM CIII.

THE Lord is full of compassion and mercy: long-suffering, and of great goodness.

He will not always be chiding: neither keepeth He His anger for ever.

He hath not dealt with us after our sins: nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

For look how high the heaven is in comparison of the earth: so great is His mercy toward them that fear Him.

Look how wide also the east is from the west: so far hath He set our sins from us.

Yea, like as a father pitieth his own children: even so is the Lord merciful unto them that fear Him.

For he knoweth whereof we are made: He remembereth that we are but dust.

The days of man are but as grass: for he flourisheth as a flower of the field.

For as soon as the wind goeth over it, it is gone: and the place thereof shall know it no more.

But the merciful goodness of the Lord, endureth for ever and ever upon them that fear Him: and His righteousness upon children's children.

PSALM CXXX.

OUT of the deep have I called unto Thee, O Lord: Lord, hear my voice.

O let Thine ears consider well: the voice of my complaint.

If Thou, Lord, wilt be extreme to mark what is done amiss: O Lord, who may abide it.

For there is mercy with Thee: therefore shalt Thou be feared.

I look for the Lord: my soul doth wait for Him: in his word is my trust.

My soul fleeth unto the Lord: before the morning watch, I say, before the morning watch.

O Israel, trust in the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy: and with Him is plenteous redemption.

And He shall redeem Israel: from all his sins.

MEDITATIONS

FOLLOWED BY SUITABLE PRAYERS.

MEDITATION I.

ALL HAVE SINNED, AND COME SHORT OF THE GLORY OF GOD. *Rom.* vii. 12.

COME, let us meditate a while on this sad and solemn truth, that we may know our real condition, and be humbled on account of it. All have sinned,—all the sons and daughters of Adam, inheriting his fallen nature, have violated the laws of a holy God, and, instead of living only to love and serve him, have served divers lusts and pleasures, following the devices and desires of their own hearts. We have only to look around in the world about us, to see manifest proofs of this melancholy truth. Many we see daily drinking in iniquity like water; others we observe more decent in their indulgences, but still shewing the propensities of their hearts, and the bias of their desires; while we see here and there, one or two who have been saved from the evil that is in the world, and who have learnt to deny themselves, and to love and serve the God who made them, and the Saviour who redeemed them. But, if *all* have sinned, then, thou, my soul, art included in the number. Thou, too, art partaker of a sinful nature; thou, too, hast incurred the displeasure of thy God, by thy actual transgressions. Bring, then,

this general truth home to thy bosom: know thyself to be a sinner; consider thy awful situation. Conscience must, long ago, have borne testimony to the truth of this matter, in thy own case; thou art self-condemned; thou knowest thine own manifold transgressions, thy numerous rebellions, thy sins of thought, word, and deed, against the Majesty of heaven; thy sins against light and knowledge, and against thy own vows and resolutions. And if thy heart thus condemn thee, God is greater than thy heart, and knoweth all things. Alas; then, how true it is, that thou hast sinned and come short of the glory of God. But what remedy is to be found for this universal evil? for surely, the conviction of this sad truth, must fill the soul with fear and apprehension: whither shall we flee from the divine justice, or where shall we hide ourselves when search is made for the guilty, and when the day of retribution draws nigh? shall we say to the mountains, Fall on us and hide us from the wrath of him that sitteth on the throne, or, shall we seek his mercy and deprecate his anger, before it be too late? But how knowest thou, my soul, that thy iniquity *can* be pardoned, and thy sins blotted out? Whence does this ray of hope shed its cheering light on thy way? Blessed be God, it reaches thee from the source of all light and truth; that same book that declares thy malady, directs thee to seek a cure, and assures thee, that there is a remedy provided. Though thou

hast destroyed thyself, in God is thy help. There is mercy with him, therefore shall he be feared. He has not left thee to grope in the darkness of despair; he has not left thee to devise unavailing expedients of thy own to heal thy distemper; he has graciously extended to thee the hand of reconciliation, and has promised thee a full and free release from thy sins, provided thou wilt turn to him with a contrite heart, confess and lament thy sinfulness, break off thy transgressions, and believe in that Redeemer on whom he has laid the burden of thy iniquities. Humble thyself, then, O my soul, with the deepest penitence, acknowledge thy guilt, lift up thy voice in earnest supplications to the throne of grace: offer no vain excuses, plead only the blood of Christ, make mention of his righteousness only, and let thy whole expectation of mercy and forgiveness, rest only on the divine compassion displayed in the work of redemption by Jesus Christ, who came into the world to save sinners.

A PRAYER.

ETERNAL and ever-living God, Thou didst create man in Thine own image, after Thine own likeness, but he rebelled against Thee, and became a miserable sinner, subject to Thy just wrath, and doomed to death: such is our condition by nature. Alas! we know Thee not, or knowing Thee, still continue to sin against

Thee. I, a grievous sinner, confess before Thee, O Lord, my own participation in the common guilt of our race, and lament before Thee my own innumerable transgressions; I bewail my countless sins of omission and commission, the pride and naughtiness of my heart, my disregard of Thy offers of mercy, and my neglect of the means of grace, the vanity of my mind, the violence of my passions, my want of love to Thee, my earthly mindedness, my carnal security, my unbelief and hardness of heart, and all my sinful conduct towards my fellow creatures, by which I may have injured them, or caused them to sin against Thee. This my guiltiness, O Lord, I most humbly confess; and I acknowledge, that I deserve to fall under the condemnation of Thy righteous law, which I have so incessantly broken. But spare me, O Lord, spare me for Thy mercy's sake. As sin has abounded, let Thy grace much more abound; glorify Thy grace in Christ Jesus by my pardon, acceptance, and sanctification: through the all-sufficient Saviour, let me be reconciled to Thee, adopted into Thy family, and finally, obtain eternal life. Mercifully regard this my confession; cause me to feel godly sorrow, grant me true repentance, assist me by the grace of Thy Holy Spirit to pursue the way of godliness, and though I deserve only Thy wrath and indignation, and to be cast out from Thy presence, bring me at length by Thy infinite goodness and mercy, to those mansions of rest and peace, which Thou hast promised to every sincere and penitent believer in Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Redeemer. Grant this and every mercy, for His name's sake. Amen.

MEDITATION II.

THE LAW IS HOLY, AND THE COMMANDMENT HOLY, AND JUST, AND GOOD. *Rom.* vii. 12.

THAT Almighty Being who formed and governs all things, has revealed himself to us as a God of perfect holiness, righteousness, and truth. He has given us a law demanding for its fulfilment the most exact conformity of our thoughts, words, and deeds, to its precepts. So pure and spiritual is it, that it extends to every thought of the heart, and to every secret intention; and so strict, that it pronounces a curse on every one that offends in the least particular. "He that offendeth in one point, is guilty of all:" solemn consideration! One unholy thought, one sinful act, brings us under the condemnation of God's all-perfect law, and renders us liable to its awful penalty! The infinite and eternal Being who gave it, sees and marks every transgression of it, and will bring us into judgment, even for an idle, and much more for a wicked word. Come, then my soul, and let us enter into serious consideration, how thou standest affected by this holy law. Hast thou never violated its precepts; art thou acquitted by thy uniform purity and holiness from all charge of guilt? What does conscience say to this matter? Alas! what has life been, but one continual course of sin, when viewed and tried by the all-perfect law of thy Maker? Remember that one single offence de-

stroys all plea of innocence, and renders thee liable to the everlasting displeasure of thy God. He is of purer eyes than to behold iniquity; and what he has declared, he will make good. "He is a God of truth, and without iniquity; just and right is he." Wilt thou then justify thyself? Or wilt thou hear the law, and acknowledge thyself a condemned sinner, having nothing to plead of thine own, but having thy mouth stopped by a sense of thy guilt. Seeing then, that thou art in a hard case, thy fancied righteousness is destroyed, sin reigns within thee, and the awful sentence of the law hangs over thee, upon what thou wilt lay the blame of all this misery? Shall the law be blamed because thou hast broken every precept, and because it pronounces on thee the sentence of condemnation? or wilt thou acknowledge the law of thy Maker to be holy, and the commandment to be holy, and just, and good? Give glory to God; confess thy sinfulness, seek no longer to justify thyself; part with thy pride, and thy self-righteousness, and bow with the deepest humility and penitence before the mercy-seat of thy God. See thy true condition by nature and by practice; learn what would be thy just sentence at the bar of divine justice, if God were to enter into judgment with thee; be thankful that thou hast not been dealt with according to thy sins, nor rewarded according to thy iniquities. Blessed be God! he has delivered us from the curse of

the law, and has opened a way of salvation for penitent sinners, through Jesus Christ our Lord. God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them, but pardoning true penitents, and justifying them by faith; imparting to them a new nature, and causing them to love the law of God, and to delight in it, and to seek daily a nearer conformity to it. Such being the blessed provisions of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, such the free mercy and grace proffered to our souls, let us not blindly look for righteousness and justification to that law which, on account of its very strictness and purity, cannot save us, but must inevitably condemn us, as continual offenders against the all-perfect holiness of its precepts. Let us learn from it the depth and extent of our corruption, and what continual need we have of the gracious intercession of our merciful Redeemer; let us take the divine law as the rule of our life, and the standard of our actions, continually judging ourselves, that we be not judged of the Lord, and daily striving, by the aid of divine grace, to advance in holiness, and thus to attain a nearer conformity to its requirements.

PRAYER.

O HOLY Lord God Almighty! how awful art Thou in holiness, and justice, and truth! who can stand before Thee? the very heavens

are unclean in Thy sight; how, then, shall man, who is by nature a child of disobedience, and by practice a continual sinner against Thee, venture to approach Thy divine Majesty, and to lift up his voice in supplication to the King of Heaven! Be not angry with me, O Lord, though I should venture to address Thee, reject not my petition, but hear me for Thy mercy's sake, and for Thy truth's sake, because Thou hast made known Thyself as a God that forgivest sin, and hearest and answerest prayer, and because of Thine own infinite goodness Thou hast opened a way for poor sinners to approach Thee in and through Thy Son Jesus Christ. O Lord, I know that in me dwelleth no good thing; I have no plea to offer before Thee, but that which Thy love and mercy have provided. I see myself condemned by the strictness of Thy holy law: times without number have I transgressed against Thee: yea, in every thing that I do, even in my most solemn attempts to serve Thee, there is a mixture of evil, and Thou mightest justly despise my best endeavours to render Thee service. But O, thou God of all compassion and mercy, enter not into judgment with me; but spare me, though I deserve puuishment; let me obtain remission of my sins, through the blood of the Cross. I have, indeed, no righteousness of my own, nor can I answer Thee one charge of a thousand; but Thou hast laid help upon one that is mighty to save; Thy beloved Son was perfect in His obedience, He magnified Thy holy law, and made it honourable; He was without sin, and He laid down His life as a ransom for sinners; for His sake, give me pardon and peace, and enable me to say of Him, He is all my salvation, "in the Lord only have I righteousness

and strength." And forasmuch as we learn our true condition in Thy sight, by a right understanding of Thy holy law, and are taught by it how we should walk so as to please Thee, grant that I may see more and more the spiritual nature of Thy commandments, and the wide extent of Thy law, so that my penitence may be daily more deep, and my aims more high, and my motives more pure, in seeking to do Thy will: and while I am continually led by the light of Thy truth, to see more and more of my own sinfulness and infirmity, may I be favoured with fresh discoveries of Thy mercy and compassion to my soul, and daily have cause to magnify Thy holy name, and to rejoice, that though I have destroyed myself, in Thee is my help. In Jesus thou canst be just, and the justifier of them that believe in Him. For His name's sake, and because Thou art good and doest good, hear my prayers, pardon my sins, and accept and bless me with all spiritual blessings in Him, now and for ever. Amen.

MEDITATION III.

THIS IS A FAITHFUL SAYING, AND WORTHY OF ALL ACCEPTATION, THAT CHRIST JESUS CAME INTO THE WORLD TO SAVE SINNERS.—1 *Tim.* i. 15.

THE most precious truth that ever reached the ear of man, is conveyed to us in these few words: let us fix our thoughts awhile upon them. The Apostle pronounces it a "faithful saying"—

a matter attested by the clearest evidence, and made known to him by a communication from heaven, and therefore entitled to our fullest belief, and worthy of being accepted of all men, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. And is it so? Can intelligence so wonderful, so fraught with love and condescension, so suited to our case as sinners, be indeed true? It almost exceeds the bounds of human thought to conceive, that the great and eternal God who made all things, and who rules and governs the vast universe which he called into existence by the word of His power, should give His only begotten Son, by whom He formed all things, to take our nature upon Him, to live on this earth, and to suffer and die to save a race of sinful mortals who had rebelled against him. Yet so it was: He that was in the bosom of the Father, He that was with God, and was God, became man, and dwelt with the creatures of His hand, endured the contradiction of sinners, submitted to their affronts, and to their cruelty, and finally, to an ignominious death on the Cross, and all for the purpose of saving sinners! Truly, my soul, here is a spectacle, both sad and wonderful: here, indeed, is a mystery—a mystery incomprehensible to men and angels; and yet it is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, and therefore of thine:—"Jesus came into the world;" let us mark these words; He left His own proper glory in the regions of bliss, and

came to visit this spot of earth —this sinful globe —this vale of tears. He came, too, in great humility, as a man of sorrows, bearing our griefs, and suffering for our offences. He came to save sinners—He came to make atonement for the guilty, to teach the ignorant, to point out the way of life, and to purchase for us a title to it. He knew our lost and perishing condition: he saw that we were ignorant, and blind, and under condemnation; and He came to give light, and life, pardon, and peace. God has set His seal to this testimony concerning His Son as true. His word declares it,—His wonders proved it. It is not a cunningly devised fable; Jesus really came, as His Gospel tells us; He was, indeed, that Divine Person which the Scriptures call Him; in Him dwelt all the fulness of the Godhead bodily; He is one with the Father; He is entitled to all worship and honour; He is worthy of all praise and adoration, for He has redeemed us with His blood; and has opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Come, my soul, let us welcome this faithful saying. Let us receive it with joy and thankfulness. Let not unbelief close the ear, nor harden the heart against its reception. Bow with humble submission, and worship with grateful adoration, at the foot of the Cross.—There is none other name given among men whereby we can be saved, but only the name of Jesus. Flee to this Saviour, for thou art a sinner; thou canst not plead that thou hast no need

of Him, for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. If, indeed, thou knowest not thy guilt, thy case is desperate; for then thine eyes are blinded, thou art under a most fatal delusion. If thou fanciest thyself whole, thou wilt not come to the Physician; then thou wilt reject the faithful saying; thou wilt not believe in the Son of God; thou wilt not flee from the wrath to come; thou wilt not lay hold on eternal life. But, oh! consider well thy true state and condition; try thyself by the all-perfect law of God; search and examine into thy heart; review thy past life, and acknowledge thyself a sinner, a great and grievous sinner, and as such deserving the penalty which the law of thy Maker pronounces against transgressors. Be no longer faithless, but believing; be melted into contrition for thy former hardness of heart; beseech the Lord Jesus himself to cast an eye of pity upon thee, to subdue every rebellious thought, to expel every unbelieving thought, and to bring thee entirely to a meek obedience to His blessed will. Pray for that faith which justifies and sanctifies, which gives victory over the world, and which makes the gates of death the way to everlasting life. The Lord grant that every delusion may vanish, that every misconception may be rectified, that every opposing obstacle may be removed, and that we may see the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ, who came into the world to save sinners.

A PRAYER.

O LORD, thou God of all mercy and grace, source of all good, we would lift up our hearts unto Thee in prayer and supplication; and blessed be Thy holy name, Thou hast given us many assurances that we shall not seek Thy face in vain. Thou knowest, O Lord, that our sins have separated between Thee and us: we are a fallen race, and having broken Thy covenant, and violated Thy laws, we are justly exposed to the penalty which our transgressions have deserved. This, indeed, is our actual condition, for Thy perfect law condemns us, and Thy justice is set in array against us: but before Thine arm could strike, mercy interposed and pointed out a way of escape. And, Oh! how wonderful was the plan of salvation which Thy love and mercy devised! Thou gavest Thine only begotten Son to be our Redeemer, to suffer and to die in our stead: He came into the world to save sinners. He who knew no sin was made sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him. Lord! give us faith to receive this precious Saviour aright. Suffer us not, through ignorance or pride, or the love of sin, or the love of the world, to slight this Thy greatest and best gift, and the only one that can be the means of our salvation. Let a sense of our lost and perishing condition, cause us to welcome with all readiness of soul so transcendant a mercy, and to rejoice in having so undeniable a pledge of Thy favour and acceptance, though we have rebelled against Thee. Thou didst not leave us in our lost and helpless condition, but in due time Thy Son came into this our world of sin and sorrow, and redeemed us from the curse

of the law, cancelling the hand-writing that was against us, and nailing it to His Cross. Enable us, then, in fulfilment of Thy gracious intentions towards us, to take Him for our only Saviour, to trust entirely in His atonement and righteousness, and to plead His name only when we approach the throne of grace, seeking mercy for our sins, and grace to help in the time of need. Let the Holy Spirit take of the things of Christ, and shew them unto our souls: may Christ become our wisdom, our righteousness, our sanctification, and our redemption. May we find in Him a fulness of all spiritual blessings: let none who put their trust in Him ever be ashamed. And, O! thou blessed Jesus, thou lover of souls, Thou whose boundless compassion led Thee to undertake a work of so much toil and suffering, to rescue us from destruction, do Thou in mercy continue to interpose in our behalf, and plead for us with Thy heavenly Father, that we may not hear of these great things concerning Thee in vain. Lord, increase our faith; and then say unto each of us; According to thy faith be it unto thee. And because Thy word assures us that our everlasting safety depends upon our interest in Thee, and our believing in Thee aright, leave us not, we pray Thee, under the power of unbelief and sin: but as Thou hast paid the ransom for our souls, perfect that which concerneth us, and bring us into such state of mind as shall give us joy and peace in believing. Be thou, O Lord, my hope, the strength of my spirit, my joy, and my confidence, and never let the enemy drive me from this rock: for Thou art all my salvation and all my desire. Lord, give us cause evermore to praise and bless Thee for what Thou hast done

and suffered for us, and graciously intercede for us with Thy Father, who is in heaven, to whom, with Thee and the Holy Spirit, be all worship, and honour, and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

MEDITATION IV.

IN SICKNESS.

I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVETH, AND THAT HE SHALL STAND AT THE LATTER DAY UPON THE EARTH.—*Job.* xix. 25.

COME, let us meditate on the goodness of God, who orders every thing for the best; whose providence governs us all our life, and at last sends the messengers of death to bid us prepare for our change. He casts us down on the bed of sickness, and draws the curtain between the world and us; there, in that quiet solitude, He speaks to our hearts, and sets before us all our life; there He discovers to us the vanity of this world, and invites us to prepare for the next. Thither He sends His message of peace to treat with our souls, and reconcile them to heaven. O, how different will our thoughts be now, to what they too often were, in the careless days of our health! How shall we freely censure what we once esteemed, and be easily convinced into wiser counsels, when our bodies are brought low on a bed of sickness, when our unruly passions and tempers are checked with pain, and our rash

minds are made sober with fear; when the occasions of sin are in a great measure removed, and every thing about us inclines us to consider our latter end, to be wise, and repent. Blessed for ever be Thy name, O Lord, whose mercy sanctifies even Thy punishments, and converts them into favours! Thou bringest us low, to persuade us to be humble; and prescribest us sickness, as a medicine to cure our infirmities. Thou commandest the grave to spare none, but indifferently to seize on all alike, that all may be led to provide for that solemn hour, and none be undone by mistaken hopes: Thou tellest us plainly that we must all die, but kindly concealest the time and place, that every where we may stand on our guard, and every moment expect the awful summons. Come, let us humble ourselves in the sight of God, and lay before Him all our complaints. He is the great Creator of the world, and sovereign judge of all mankind. He sits above on His glorious throne, and in His hands are the keys of life and death. Whatever He pleases, He brings to pass, and none can resist His almighty power: whatever He does, is still just and right; and none can accuse His all-knowing goodness. Let us, therefore, make our peace betimes with our God, before evening approach too near, or the night come when no man can work: while it is called to-day, let us faithfully labour, let us hear His voice, and harden not our hearts. Let us look into our

own breast, and strictly examine what passes there. Tell me, O my soul, how stands our great account! Are we prepared to go and meet our Judge? Is there not still some sin to repent of, which our deceitful hearts would fain hide from our view? Are we yet disposed to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Christ? Forgive, O sovereign goodness, for the Redeemer's sake, forgive our sins and imperfections, cleanse us from our pollutions, and fix our whole hearts on nothing but Thyself. Deliver us, O Lord, from the temptations of this world, and mercifully save us from the wrath to come. Blessed are those servants whom their Lord, when he cometh, shall find watching: He surely will bestow on them all the mercies and blessings of His kingdom. "Hear, then, our prayers, O Lord, and let our cry come unto Thee." Every thing afflicts us in this troublesome world, but nothing so much as our own iniquities. They, like a heavy yoke, oppress our necks, and keep down our eyes from looking up to heaven. Lord, we confess that we have followed vanity, and negligently performed the work that Thou gavest us to do; we confess that we have gone astray after the manner of men, and there is no health in us; but now, as we hope, our chief desires are towards Thee.—Quench not, O God of mercy, quench not the smoking flax, nor break the bruised reed. Pardon the sins which we have daily committed, and

work a true and a hearty repentance in us. Teach us, O Lord, patiently to endure any cross or sickness, which embitters the world to our taste; that, after this experience and trial, if it be Thy good pleasure to restore us to our former health, we may amend our lives, and be made meet for Thy heavenly kingdom. Bless the Lord, O my soul, give thanks to God for all His mercies: though He slay thee, still trust in Him. If thy pains be not perpetual, thank Him for thy intervals of ease and refreshment; if they be sometimes acute and extreme, thank Him for the abatement and moderation of them; if thou endurest much, consider this as a good method of weaning thy affections from the world, and making thee more earnestly desirous of tasting the joys of a better place. If a tedious, lingering distemper assault, and almost weary out thy patience, think how much rather this is to be chosen than a sudden stroke. Reflect upon the condition of those unhappy beings who are snatched out of the world, it may be, with all their sins upon their own head, without so much as the power or leisure to seek for pardon and peace, or to implore the mercy of God in their last moments. Oh! what would they have given, how much more would they have willingly suffered, to purchase this long warning! these slow approaches of death, the happy advantages which thou now enjoyest of trimming thy lamp, and putting thy soul in readiness to meet the bride-

groom at his coming? O thou dear Redeemer of the world, and sovereign King of life and death; Thou who despisest not the tears of the penitent, nor turnest away from the sighs of the afflicted, Thou who preservest all that rely on Thee, and fulfillest the desires of them that long to be with Thee, hear Thou our cries, and pardon our sins, and graciously deliver us from all our afflictions and fears, for Thy tender mercy's sake.

A PRAYER.

ALMIGHTY God and merciful Father, Thou art the author of my being, and as my life, my health, and strength are from Thee, so are they, and ought to be, wholly at Thy disposal; I humbly confess, that because of my sins, it is just with Thee to afflict me with sickness and pain, yea, to cut me off from the land of the living. I acknowledge, O Lord, my sins are many and great; neither have I been duly thankful for, nor made a right use of, the manifold blessings of health and strength, of time and opportunities of doing and receiving good, which Thou hast vouchsafed unto me: I do, therefore, acknowledge the justice of Thy dealings, and that the greatest afflictions which I can suffer here, are infinitely less than my sins deserve. But, O thou Father of mercies, who delighteth not in the death of a sinner, be favourable unto me; enter not into judgment with thy servant, neither deal with me according to my sins, but according to Thy tender mercy in Jesus Christ.

I know, O Lord, that afflictions rise not out of the dust, and that such is Thy mercy, that Thou dost not willingly afflict nor grieve the children of men; Thou designest not the ruin, but the amendment of those whom Thou scourgest. I beseech Thee, by Thy grace so to sanctify this correction of Thine unto me, that this sickness of my body may be a means of health to my soul: make me diligent to search my heart, and to turn unto Thee, that this correction may appear to be the effect of Thy love. Remember, O Lord, the sufferings of Thy Son, whom Thou sentest to heal our infirmities, who Himself bore our afflictions, and the punishment due to our sins: teach me to believe in Him as my only Saviour; to trust only in His merits; and I humbly beg, for His sake, that Thou wouldest be reconciled unto me. Heal my soul, O Lord, which hath sinned against Thee, and then, if it be Thy blessed will, heal my body also, and restore me again to a state of health and strength, that I may still live to praise Thee, and bring forth the fruits of that faith which worketh by love. But if, in Thy wisdom, Thou hast otherwise disposed, if Thou hast determined that this sickness shall be unto death, I beseech Thee to fit and prepare me for it; give me that sincere and hearty repentance, that repentance not to be repented of, and that lively faith to which Thou hast promised mercy and pardon, for the Redeemer's sake: wean my heart from the world and all its seducing vanities, and make me long for those more excellent and durable joys which are at Thy right hand for evermore. Lord take away the sting of death, the guilt of my sins, and then, "though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:" I

will lay me down in peace, and Lord, when I wake up, let me be satisfied with Thy presence in Thy glory. Grant this, O merciful God, for His sake, who is both the Redeemer and Mediator of sinners, even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MEDITATION V.

ON DEATH.

I HEARD A VOICE FROM HEAVEN, SAYING UNTO ME: WRITE, FROM HENCEFORTH, BLESSED ARE THE DEAD WHICH DIE IN THE LORD: EVEN SO SAITH THE SPIRIT, FOR THEY REST FROM THEIR LABOURS.—*Rev.* xiv. 13.

THIS life, indeed, is the way in which we must walk: but this alone does not bring us to our home. Ere we arrive there, we must be led through the gates of death, where we shall be stripped of all that we have, and carry nothing with us but what we are; where we must not only quit the whole world, but leave behind us even a part of ourselves. The longest life is but a day multiplied: and who can assure us which will be our last? He only, who was God as well as man, could say, "Mine hour is not yet come." We know not what a day, an hour, or even a minute, may bring forth. Assist me, O my God, to live in a constant expectation of a dying hour, which I know is certain, and may be very near.

"It is appointed unto all men once to die, and after that the judgment." So says the Spirit of God Himself; and what is thus appointed, none can reverse, none can escape. But who may abide that day, or who shall stand when the Lord appeareth? Who, indeed, when not only the thing itself, but the very thoughts, and especially the approaches of it, are so dreadful: for, what is more terrible to mortal man, than dying, and what more so to sinful man, than being judged? O, death! how terrible art thou to those persons unto whom thou art the end of their happiness, and the beginning of their sorrow! This terror is what nothing can relieve, but the comfort resulting from a steadfast faith in that Saviour who died to expiate our sins, and to make a full satisfaction for our offences. And this is a comfort which I hope will belong to me: for do but hear and observe, my soul, what reviving words the Holy Ghost hath spoken to this purpose: "If any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous, and He is the propitiation for our sins." Look up, then, and see thy Lord coming in the clouds. Thou must be judged, it is true; but thy Redeemer shall be thy judge. And to whose decision wouldst thou choose to stand, but to that of thy best friend? To Him who loved thee so as to die for thee, and to be made sin and a curse for thee, that thou mightest be made the righteousness of God in Him; and He hath promised that all who

repent and believe, and love and serve Him, shall be saved in that day, and be where He is, and behold His glory.

A PRAYER.

O MOST great and glorious God, I am now presenting my soul and body to Thee, but cannot tell where I shall be the next moment, or whether I shall live to breathe out the desires of my soul once more unto Thee: for in Thy hand is the breath of our nostrils, and when Thou pleasest, we are turned to destruction. I see, O Lord, now that I think of my departure, how unprofitable my too many cares are for the things of this life, how trifling all my pursuits, and that there is no solid happiness but in Thy love, and a well-founded hope of immortality. Make me so wise as to understand and consider my latter end, to remember the shortness of my time; and teach me so to number my days, that I may apply my heart unto wisdom. Help me so to live, as at the hour of death I shall wish I had lived, and so make me ready for death all my days, that at my last day I may have nothing else to do but to resign myself willingly into Thy hands. Continue in my mind these holy thoughts and inclinations, that my love to this world may always be such as is consistent with my hope of heaven: and grant, that the nearer I come to that eternal world, the clearer sight I may have of my happiness, and attain the greater assurance of Thy love, and be fuller of joy in the hope of Thy glory. Hear me, for my Redeemer's sake, whose merits I plead, and in whose name and words I pray, saying, "Our Father, &c."

MEDITATION VI.

UNLESS THY LAW HAD BEEN MY DELIGHTS, I SHOULD THEN HAVE PERISHED IN MINE AFFLICTION.—*Psalm* cxix. 92.

O MY God, in vain do we beg to have Thy heavy hand taken from us, so long as the cause remains: our sins have been many and great; we deserve all the evil that we suffer, and all that Thou hast threatened: and yet, such is Thy goodness, that these afflictions are not the wounds and bruises of an enemy, but the chastisements of a father: Thou layest Thy rod upon me only with a design to reprove and reform me, for thus Thou hast explained the nature and intent of Thy own dispensations: "My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of Him. For whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons: for what son is he whom the Father chasteneth not? Furthermore, we have had fathers of our flesh, which corrected us, and we gave them reverence; shall we not much rather be in subjection to the Father of spirits, and live? For they verily for a few days chastened us, after their own pleasure, but He for our profit, that we might be partakers of His holiness. Now, no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous; nevertheless, afterwards it yield-

eth the peaceable fruits of righteousness unto them that are exercised thereby." Consider, O my soul, who chooses for thee, and learn to resign thyself to His disposals, for they are the appointments of One who is wiser than thou: consider, also, why He chooses thus, and learn to improve under the seeming harshness of such dispensations. Blessed be Thy name, most gracious God, for this very affliction, with which Thy fatherly wisdom hath now thought fit to chastise and try me: I cannot flee from Thy rod, but I will flee to Thee for succour, and beg that Thou wouldst assist me with patience, and turn all my affliction to my soul's advantage. In all Thy dealings I know that Thou art just, and wise, and good, and Thou hast promised that all things shall work together for good to them that love Thee. Therefore, if it be for my good, let this cup pass from me; if also, it be for my good, let it remain with me. In the mean time, I beseech Thee to give me such an humble sense of my own guilt and unworthiness, as may work in me a quiet and contented submission to Thy will, that I may not be too much cast down, nor unthankfully murmur at the weight or length of my sufferings, but receive every dispensation of Thy providence with such a spirit and temper as becomes my duty, and may render it serviceable to the ends which Thou in Thine infinite wisdom designest to accomplish by it.

A PRAYER.

O MOST gracious Lord, whose mercies endure for ever; who hast revealed Thyself to mankind in Christ Jesus, as a God of mercy, grace, and salvation: He came to be a prince and a Saviour, to give us repentance, and remission of sins: Thy mercies, O Lord, are over all Thy works; for Thou art full of pity and compassion, merciful and gracious, long-suffering and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin: I, Thy unworthy creature, have had long experience of this gracious property of Thine; for, notwithstanding my daily provocations against Thee, Thou still heapest mercy and loving kindness upon me. I had forfeited my soul to Thy laws, and Thou mightest justly have cut me off, and given me my portion with the wicked and unbelievers. But Thou hast spared me when I deserved punishment, and in the midst of wrath, hast thought upon mercy. O let me never again abuse Thy mercies, nor grow careless under the abundance of Thy goodness, but look on all Thy favours as engagements and mighty arguments to love, acknowledge, and obey Thee: let Thy patience and forbearance lead me to repentance, and assist me by Thy grace to resist and overcome all temptations to sin, and to conform myself unto Thy will in all things. O, merciful God, have pity upon me, and since "without holiness no man shall see Thee," do Thou, I beseech Thee, purify my soul, and enlighten my understanding, that I may behold Thy face in righteousness, and be satisfied with Thy likeness. O, let Thy beauties so attract my thoughts and desires, that

I may look for Thee in holiness, and behold Thy power and Thy glory. I cannot now see it, but as in a glass darkly; but Thou hast told us, that those who are pure in heart, shall hereafter see Thee face to face. Thy blessed Son hath also told us, that in Thy house are many mansions, and that He is gone to prepare a place for us; do Thou, I beseech Thee, for His sake, prepare me for Thy presence; renew and perfect Thine own image in me, that being holy as Thou art holy, I may be meet to be partaker of the inheritance of the saints in light—that inheritance "incorruptible, undefiled, that fadeth not away;" but is reserved in heaven for those who are kept by the power of God, through faith unto salvation; to which blessed abode, do Thou, in Thy mercy, bring me and all Thy faithful people, through the merits and intercession of Thy dear Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

A GENERAL PRAYER,

IN AFFLICTION.

O MOST blessed Lord God, Father of our spirits, and Creator of all things, who most especially delighteth in showing mercy, and ever regardest the cry of the afflicted; with a deep sense of our utter unworthiness in Thy sight, we meekly desire, O Lord, to acknowledge our dependence upon Thee alone for all things. We would bow with reverence and submission of heart in all Thy wise dispensations towards us,

and earnestly desire to resign ourselves, body and soul, into Thy hands, casting all our care upon Thee, in the full assurance that Thou carest for them that put their trust in Thy promised mercy. Show, O Lord, Thy mercy upon upon us; enlighten, we pray Thee, our darkened understandings; favour us with such views of Thy wise providence as may take from us every feeling of repining and discontent. Shed abroad in our hearts, in this our weak condition, the reviving influence of Thy love, and impart unto us a saving knowledge of Thyself, Thy faithfulness and truth. O Thou to whom prayer is made, and who graciously professest Thy readiness to hearken to our earnest petitions, incline Thine ear, O Lord, and hear, stretch forth Thy hand and save. Enable us, we beseech Thee, to approach Thy footstool, in a manner suitable to Thy Majesty, greatness, and glory. Enable us now to draw nigh unto Thee who art our only place of refuge, and in all prayer and humble supplication to make known our requests unto Thee. In the name and mediation of Thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, our all-sufficient Advocate and Saviour, we present ourselves before Thee. He is the way, the truth, and the life; make us, O Lord, by the quickening influence of Thy grace, fully to apprehend Thy loving mercy shewed us in Him. Lead us, under a deep sense of our great need, and of our otherwise ruined condition, to apply for pardon and

peace, through the blood of His cross. Enable us so worthily to think of that great redemption, so highly to value the knowledge of Christ our Lord, that we may justly deem all other things but loss for the excellency of this blessing.

But, O Lord, Thou knowest the frowardness of our hearts, their natural pride, and our unwillingness to humble ourselves before Thee. From our youth up we are ever inclined to go astray. Many a time have we rebelled against Thee, and cast Thy words behind us, desiring not to know Thy ways, and disregarding Thy counsel: and we acknowledge it is only of Thy great mercy that we are not utterly consumed. But Thou, O Lord, art long-suffering, of great goodness, and slow to anger. Thou wouldest not that any should perish, but that all should come to a saving knowledge of Thy mercy and love in Christ Jesus our Lord. How little, how seldom, and slightly, have we considered these things: instead of leaning upon Thee alone, we have mostly sought our repose and happiness in those things which Thou hast forewarned us, are incapable of yielding them; we have set our affections on the perishable things of this life, while Thou commandest, and invitest us to fix them on things above. The desire of our hearts has been principally to seek our own pleasure, and to attain our own wishes, which are so often opposed to Thy holy will. Thou pitiest our proneness to error, and hast so ordered the course of

this world, that we should be daily admonished both from within and without, of our danger and folly. Besides the gracious instruction vouchsafed in Thy holy word, Thou turnest all the disappointments of our worldly hopes and views, all our pains and sorrows, sickness and distress, to the furtherance of Thy gracious purposes and good-will towards us. Knowing our liability to be blinded and misled by the deceitfulness of sin, worldly prosperity, and the attainment of our hearts' desire in the good things of this life, Thou hast, in Thy wisdom and goodness, appointed afflictions, decay, and weakness, to wean our affections from those things which are hurtful to the soul. Grievous as these things are to the flesh, unwilling as we are to relinquish our hold of the frail support and comfort which earthly things can afford, yet Thou graciously intendest good to us in every affliction and event that befalls us. Make us, O Lord, duly sensible of this: teach us the true wisdom which is from above; enable us to reap the benefit, and so to take advantage of Thy visitations, and so to improve to our eternal welfare, all our troubles and adversities—all the opportunities of reflection which Thou mercifully givest us, that we may in humble patience, ever adore Thy gracious goodness towards us. Direct us, O Lord, soon to see the end which Thy providence has in view, and may Thy afflictive dispensations, of whatever nature they may be, speedily accom-

plish Thy own gracious purpose in the disposition of our hearts, and our relation to Thee. Do Thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us. Open Thou, the eyes of our understanding, and we shall see. Turn us, O Lord, and we shall be turned. Shew the light of Thy countenance upon us, and we shall be whole. Speak the word only, and we shall be healed. Thou givest and Thou takest away; Thou raisest up and castest down, blessed be Thy Holy Name for ever more. As we have heretofore received good at Thy hand, teach us also to receive evil; for Thou canst turn even that to good. In the midst of judgment Thou rememberest mercy, and we believe that Thou dost not willingly grieve the children of men. Suffer us, then, in our present state, to plead the merits and sufferings of our Lord Jesus Christ, as the grounds of the mercy and favour which we at this time so much need, and humbly supplicate, of Thy never-failing goodness. Afford unto us, O Lord, thy present help and defence in this our affliction, and save and deliver us when we call upon Thee. Thou hast to our consolation taught us, that all things work together for good to them that love Thee: so Lord make us to love Thee, so Lord cause us to feel and know that Thou art faithful, and in very faithfulness hast caused us to be troubled. Yet, O Lord, have Thou compassion on our feebleness, and frailty, and though we have most righteously deserved punishment, yet lay not upon us more than Thy

grace and heavenly support will enable us to bear. In Thee, O Lord alone, have we strength either to think or to do what is pleasing in Thy sight, put Thou into our minds, such good thoughts, and designs, as shall be agreeable to Thy holy will. Enable us by Thy grace to ask of Thee such blessings as Thou mayest in Thy good pleasure be inclined to grant, and under every dispensation of Thy good providence, suffer us in perfect faith and confidence, to repose our hope in Thee alone. Possess, O Lord, our souls with a full conviction of the infinitely greater value of those joys which Thou hast in store, for all who faithfully seek Thy pardoning mercy, grace, and redemption, in Christ our Saviour. Permit us, O Lord of heaven and earth! to encourage such an humble hope of attaining to Thy promised rest, as may effectually console and support us under all trials of our faith and patience here on earth. Our blessed Lord and Saviour has for our encouragement told us, that in Thy glorious habitation are many mansions, which he has prepared for his faithful followers; enable us to follow him who has victoriously led the way, that we may for His sake be admitted into those eternal habitations, where peace and love for ever dwell, and sin and sorrow shall be no more. And do Thou send Thy grace to prepare and sanctify our hearts for so pure and holy an abode. Raise and purify our gross and earthly affections, and lead us to fix them on

Thee, as the centre of all our hopes. the source of all our joy. And as our pleasures, and interests in this world fail us, vouchsafe unto us such a degree of that heavenly consolation, and spiritual refreshment, as shall abundantly compensate for all our earthly sorrows, pains, and disappointments, so that we may praise and glorify Thy name, and speak of Thy truth all the day long. Supported by Thy invisible arm, and powerful aid, though we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, we shall fear no ill. The enemy shall not approach to hurt them whom Thou protectest. And finally, that we may be numbered in the fold of that good shepherd who gave His life for the sheep, grant us grace that we may with ready obedience hear His voice, and delight to feed in his pasture. Pour into our hearts such heavenly desires and affections, so mightily increase our faith, that our great delight may be to meditate on Thy glorious promises, and unspeakable mercies in Christ our Lord; and may our souls be so occupied by holy contemplations and in sweet communion with Thee, as to prevent every evil thought, word, and work. Grant, O Lord, that these our prayers which we humbly offer up in the name of our blessed Redeemer, may, by the efficacy of His mediation, come before Thee in an accepted time. May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts, be now and ever acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, our strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

AN ADDRESS

ON PREPARATION FOR DEATH.

WE cannot live a comfortable life, till we are prepared for a comfortable death. The sting of death is sin. There is nothing that makes death so terrible to us, as guilt. It is sin that makes us hide *ourselves* from our God: and it is sin that hides *His* face from us. If, therefore, you would be prepared to meet your God, spare not sin: search it to the very bottom of your hearts, for you will find that it has taken deep root there. That repentance which is unto life, is a turning unto God—a putting off the old man, and putting on the new: it is a death unto sin, and a new birth unto righteousness: let repentance, therefore, have its perfect work.

Place your soul in the hands of Jesus to be pardoned, to be sanctified, and saved. Remember, he is "the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world." He was made sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. Fly to this refuge. Lay hold on this hope set before you, and you will find strong consolation. Come, therefore, boldly to the throne of grace, that you may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in the time of need. Devote yourself entirely to God, and make it the business of the remainder of your life, to please Him, and to do good to all around you. Though

your only hope for salvation, is the merits of your Redeemer, yet will it not be matter of comfort to you, to look back on such marks of your sincerity as these ?—That you have learnt to love God above all things.—That you have taken Christ for your only Saviour, and His Spirit for your Sanctifier.—That you have loved your brethren around you, your pious friends and neighbours, because they were brethren in Christ, and children of the same heavenly Father.—That you have loved holiness, and have delighted in the word of God and His ordinances, as the means of holiness: and, that it has been your earnest desire to be made more holy, and more meet for that new heaven and new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Oh! what will evidences like these be worth, in a dying hour!

Meditate often on the heavenly glory, on the certainty, the nearness, the greatness of that glory. Think how many have passed through a world of trials to the prepared rest. They were compassed with infirmities as we are: they had their conflicts, their fears, their doubts as we have, and they passed through the gates of death, as we must. We go not an untrodden path, but are followers of them who "through faith and patience inherit the promises." Let such thoughts as these, be your daily employment and delight; and because your heart will be backward, you must urge it on. Sometimes speak to yourself in devout meditation, and sometimes

address yourself earnestly to God in prayer. Think much of the infinite perfections of God. Remember that His goodness is equal to His greatness. Call to mind all the great mercies of your past life, and above all, let your thoughts dwell on the unspeakable mercy, of having given you to know Christ and the power of His resurrection. Make praise and thanksgiving a part of your daily devotions; rejoice in that mercy which opened your eyes, and turned you from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan, unto God. And, remember, that the time is but short, and you shall be tempted no more, and sin no more, and fear no more, and suffer no more. What an hour of joy and triumph will that be, when you shall be newly entered into the city of God, the heavenly society, and shall sing your first song of joyful praise to God and the Lamb. In the mean time, give all diligence to make your calling and election sure, and press forward toward the mark for the prize of your high calling in Christ Jesus.

A CONFESSION.

O RIGHTEOUS Lord God, who hatest iniquity, I, Thy sinful creature cast myself at Thy footstool, acknowledging that I most justly deserve to be utterly abhorred and forsaken by Thee: for I have gone on in a course

of sin and rebellion against Thee, daily committing those things which Thou forbiddest, and leaving undone what Thou commandest: in thought, word, and deed, I have offended against Thy divine majesty. Nay, O Lord, I have despised that goodness of Thine which should lead me to repentance, hardening my heart against all those means which Thou hast used for my correction. And now, O Lord, what can I justly expect from Thee, but judgment and fiery indignation: these are, indeed, the due reward of my sins. But, O Lord, there is mercy with Thee, that Thou mayest be feared. O prepare me for the reception of that mercy, by giving me a deep and hearty repentance: and then, according to Thy goodness, let Thine anger and Thy wrath be turned away from me: look upon me in Thy Son Jesus Christ, who came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief: for the merit of His sufferings, pardon all my sins. And I beseech Thee, O Lord, by the power of Thy grace, so to renew and purify my heart, that I may become a new creature, utterly forsaking every evil way, and devoting myself henceforth to the praise of Thy great glory, rejoicing in Thy mercy shewn me in Jesus Christ, our only Saviour and Redeemer, to whom with Thyself, O merciful Father, and the Holy Spirit, I would ascribe all honour and praise, both now and ever. Amen.

A PRAYER FOR SINCERITY.

O HOLY Lord God, who requirest truth in the inward parts, I humbly beseech Thee, to cleanse me from all hypocrisy and self-deception. The heart, O Lord, Thou knowest, for Thy word declares it, is deceitful above all things: O Thou who searchest the heart, and triest the reins, try me, and seek the ground of my heart, and suffer not any accursed thing to lurk within me. O Lord, I cannot deceive Thee, but I may easily deceive myself: I beseech Thee, let me not rest in any such deceit; but bring me to a sight and hatred of my most hidden corruptions. O suffer me not to speak peace to myself, when there is no peace, but grant that I may judge of myself as Thou judgest of me: and when Thou hast shewn me my sinfulness, enable me to repent, and abhor myself, and to seek of Thy mercy and faithfulness, to be cleansed from all unrighteousness. Wash me in that fountain which has been opened for sin and uncleanness; let my robes be made white in the blood of the Lamb. Enable me, O Divine Spirit, Thou guide unto truth, to rejoice in Christ Jesus, and to have no confidence in the flesh: shew me some portion of His excellency, that my soul may see it and live. Finally, do Thou purify my heart, and exalt my thoughts to some worthy conception of the great things which God has done for me,

that my soul may rejoice in the hope set before me, and I may be made meet for the inheritance of the saints in light. All this I ask in the name and for the sake of that Saviour who lived and died for my salvation, and in whom alone I hope to be accepted in my prayers at the throne of grace. O Lord, let His blood wash away my sin, His merits cover my unworthiness, and reconcile a sinner to Thyself, that he may obtain mercy and grace to help in the time of need. Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be now and ever acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, my Strength, and my Redeemer. Amen.

A PRAYER

IN AFFLICTION.

O JUST and Holy Lord, who with rebukes dost chasten man for sin, I desire unfeignedly to humble myself under Thy mighty hand: I heartily acknowledge, O Lord, that all I do—all I can suffer, is but the due reward of my deeds; and therefore, in all that Thou layest upon me, I must still say, Righteous art Thou, O Lord, and upright are Thy judgments. But, O Lord, I beseech Thee, in judgment remember mercy, and though my sins have caused Thee to strike, yet, consider my weakness, and

remember that I am but dust. Correct me not in Thine anger, lest Thou bring me to nothing. Lord! do not abhor my soul, nor cast Thy servant away in displeasure; but pardon my sins, and blot out all my transgressions: remember me with the favour that Thou bearest unto Thy people, and visit me with Thy salvation. Look upon the face of Thine anointed, for in Him Thou canst be just, and the justifier of them that believe in Jesus. And yet, if in Thy Fatherly wisdom, Thou shalt see fit to prolong Thy corrections, enable me to say, Thy blessed will be done. I would cast myself upon Thy mercy: do with me O Lord what Thou pleasest. Try me as silver is tried, so that Thou bring me out purified. And Lord, make even my flesh to yield this resignation, that there may be nothing in me that may rebel against Thy hand: may Thy grace repress every repining thought, that I may cheerfully drink of this cup which Thy mercy has mingled: and, however bitter Thou shalt please to make it, let it prove wholesome medicine to my soul, and bring forth in me the peaceable fruits of righteousness: then O Lord, shall these light afflictions which are but for a moment, work out for me a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, through Jesus Christ, my only Saviour, and Redeemer. Amen.

A PRAYER

FOR A SICK PERSON.

O MERCIFUL and righteous Lord, the God of my life, the giver of health and sickness, of life and death, I most unfeignedly acknowledge that my great neglect of Thee in the days of my strength and welfare, have most justly deserved not only Thy present visitation, but Thy wrath for ever. I desire, O Lord, humbly to accept this punishment of my iniquity, and to bear Thy indignation, because I have sinned against Thee, O Lord. And O Thou merciful Father, who designest not the ruin, but the salvation of those whom Thou chastenest, I beseech Thee, so to sanctify this correction of Thine to me, that this sickness of my body may be a means of health to my soul; make me diligent to search my heart, and do Thou, O Lord, enable me to discover every accursed thing, how closely soever concealed there; and may its removal make way for the removal of this my affliction. Heal my soul, O Lord, which hath sinned against Thee, and then, if it be Thy blessed will, heal my body also: restore the voice of joy and health unto my dwelling, that I may live to praise Thee, and to bring forth fruits meet for repentance. But if in Thy wisdom Thou hast otherwise disposed, if Thou hast determined that this sickness shall

be unto death, I beseech Thee to fit and prepare me for it: give me that sincere and earnest repentance —that repentance unto life, not to be repented of—to which Thou hast promised mercy and pardon for the sake of Christ: wean my heart from the world, and enable me to fix my affections on things above, even those more excellent and durable joys which are at Thy right hand for evermore. Lord, lift Thou up the light of Thy countenance upon me, and in all the pains of my body and the agonies of my mind, let Thy comforts refresh my soul, and enable me patiently to wait till my change come. And grant, O Lord, that when my earthly house of this tabernacle is dissolved, I may have a building of God—a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens: grant all this, for His sake who by His precious blood has purchased it for me, even Jesus Christ, my only Redeemer, to whom with Thee, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, be all honour and worship now and for ever. Amen.

A PRAYER

AT THE APPROACH OF DEATH.

O ETERNAL and ever-living God, who first breathedst into man the breath of life, and when Thou takest away that breath, he dies

and is turned again to his dust: look with compassion on me Thy poor creature, who am now drawing near to the gates of death, and what is infinitely more terrible, to the bar of Thy judgment. Lord, my own heart condemns me, and Thou art infinitely greater than my heart, and knowest all things. The sins which I know and remember, fill me with terror; but there are multitudes of others, which I either observed not at the time, or have since carelessly forgot. But why do I speak of single sins, when my whole life long has been one continual proof of my rebellion against Thee! Thou knowest that I am utterly unclean; there is no whole part in me. And, to add to my fears, my very repentance has frequently been insincere; my relapses and backslidings, have sufficiently witnessed the deceitfulness of my past resolutions. Which way, then, can I turn for comfort? What can assure me that my present humiliation for my sins, is not rather the effect of my amazing danger, than of any real change for the better? And, O Lord, I know that Thou art not mocked, neither is there any thought of the heart hid from Thy sight. When I consider this, fearfulness and trembling come upon me, and a horrible dread overwhelmeth me. But, O Lord, one deep calleth upon another—the depth of my misery, upon the depth of Thy mercy: Lord, save now, or I perish eternally. O Thou that willest not that any should perish, but that all should come

to repentance, bring me, I beseech Thee, though thus late, to a sincere repentance: let it be Thy work, O Lord, and not mine; Thy gracious will be done. Create in me O God, a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within me. Lord, one day is with Thee as a thousand years, O let Thy mighty Spirit work in me now in this my last day, that change which is necessary for my salvation. Give me a perfect and entire hatred of my sins, and enable me to present Thee with that sacrifice of a broken and contrite heart, which Thou hast promised not to despise. Grant, that by faith I may receive the atonement which Thy dear Son has, by the oblation of Himself, made for all repenting sinners. He is the propitiation for our sins; He was wounded for our transgressions; He was bruised for our iniquities, and the chastisement of our peace was upon Him. O heal me by His stripes, and let the cry of my sins be stopped by the cry of His blood, which speaketh better things than that of Abel. I am, indeed, a child of wrath, but He is the Son of Thy love: for His sake, spare me, O Lord, spare Thy creature, whom He has redeemed with His most precious blood, and be not angry with me for ever. In Him as a crucified Saviour, I take sanctuary: O let not vengeance pursue me to this city of refuge. But by His agony and bloody sweat, by His cross and passion, by all that He did and suffered for sinners, good Lord, deliver me; deli-

ver me, I beseech Thee, from the wages of my sins; from Thy wrath, and from everlasting damnation. In this time of my tribulation, in the hour of death, and in the day of judgment, hear me, O Lord, and do not requite my former neglects of Thy calls, by refusing to answer me in this time of my greatest need. Lord, there is but a step between me and death, O let not my sun go down upon Thy wrath, but seal my pardon before I go hence, and be no more seen. Thy loving kindness is better than life; O let me taste of that, and I shall most gladly lay down this mortal life. Lord, Thou knowest all my desire, and my groaning is not hid from Thee; deal Thou with me according to Thy name, for sweet is Thy mercy; take away the sting of death—the guilt of my sins, then I shall have peace with Thee, through Jesus Christ: I will lay me down in peace, and when I awake up, let me see Thy face in righteousness and be satisfied with Thy likeness. Grant this, merciful God, for His sake, who is both the Redeemer and Mediator of sinners, even Jesus Christ. Amen.

ANOTHER PRAYER

AT THE APPROACH OF DEATH.

O LORD God of my salvation, who art a very present help in time of trouble, and nigh unto all such as seek Thee through the blood of

the Covenant: it is in the name of a crucified Saviour, that I now venture into Thy presence. Incline Thine ear unto my prayer: look on me with pity and compassion, for my soul is grievously vexed, and my life draws near to the grave. But, O Lord, let me not depart hence till I have seen Thy salvation, and gained a comfortable hope through grace, that my sins are washed away in the blood of the Redeemer. That I may earnestly desire and seek this mercy at Thy hands, I humbly entreat Thee to give me a lively perception of the exceeding sinfulness of sin. Help me to call to remembrance not only the sin and corruption in which I was born, as the offspring of fallen Adam, but my own actual transgressions. Yet where shall I begin? For, alas! they are more in number than the hairs of my head, and every one of them deserves Thy wrath. O! that I had a heart to lament them as I ought! But this must be Thy work. Of myself I can do nothing! Lord, I beseech Thee, give me that deep penitential sorrow which worketh repentance unto life, that I may be duly humbled at the feet of Jesus. O, blessed Saviour, Thou art my only hope! gladden my drooping spirits with the comfort of Thy presence, and cast out all darkness and pollution from the secret dwellings of my heart. So shall my purified soul, as a temple dedicated to Thee, be filled with songs and thanksgivings to Thy precious name. And let me ever intermix my joy with humility

smiting on my breast, and saying, "God be merciful to me a sinner." Accept me thus, O merciful Father, for Thy dear Son's sake, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

A PRAYER

OVER A SICK PERSON.

O ALMIGHTY God who art ever nigh to such as faithfully call upon Thee, we humbly beseech Thee, favourably to hear our prayers in behalf of this our weak and afflicted fellow-creature. In the name of the Lord Jesus, we venture to entreat Thee to give *him* grace to examine *his* heart, and enable *him* to call to remembrance all *his* past ways and offences. Give *him* to see and feel, that *he* has hitherto lived without God in the world, often resisted Thy Holy Spirit, and disregarded the blood of the Redeemer. O pardon *his* ignorance, and do Thou instruct *him*, and lead *him* in the way everlasting. Bring *him* to the Saviour of lost souls. Give *him* an humble and penitent heart. Show *him his* sins. Take away the heart of stone, and give *him* a heart of flesh,—a heart to hate sin, and love holiness; that *he* may hunger and thirst after righteousness. Hear us, good Lord, and give *him* repentance unto salvation. Lord, though *his* sins were red as scarlet, Thy precious blood can wash them white as snow.

O Thou who art Lord over all, blessed for ever, deliver *him*, we pray Thee, from the bitter pains of eternal death; and if it be Thy good pleasure to raise *him* up from this bed of sickness, may *he* be a living monument of Thy mercy; may *he* glorify Thy name both in time and in eternity. Merciful Father, grant these our humble and earnest petitions, for the sole merits of Jesus Christ, Thy dear Son. Amen.

A PRAYER

FOR A DYING PERSON.

O LORD! who hast graciously been pleased in Thy wisdom and goodness, to add another day to the existence of this Thy weak and dying creature, mercifully grant that as the outward man decays, the inward man may be strengthened; and that by Thy grace, such a saving change may be wrought in *his* heart, that *he* may be enabled to lay hold of the hope set forth in Thy blessed Gospel. O wash *him* in the blood of that precious Saviour, who died to redeem lost sinners; and in whose name and mediation alone, we presume to approach Thee at this time. Remember not, O Lord, the past offences of this sick and dying person, neither take Thou vengeance of *his* sins; but spare *him*, good Lord; spare *his* never-dying soul; and in the hour of death, and in the day of judgment,

good Lord, deliver *him*. O that it may please Thee, to pity and loose *him* from the bonds of sin, and to succour, help and comfort *him* in this hour of danger, necessity, and tribulation. Lord have mercy upon *him*; Christ have mercy upon *him*, in this *his* hour of danger, necessity and tribulation. Lord have mercy upon us: Christ have mercy upon us; and graciously assist the prayers which we have now made before Thee, in behalf of this our fellow-creature. O Lord, we beseech Thee, forgive *his* sins, and blot out all *his* iniquities, clothe *him* in the righteous robes of Thy dear Son, and grant *him* admittance into the mansions of eternal glory, for the love of Him, who ever liveth and reigneth with Thee. Amen.

ANOTHER.

O MOST Holy and Almighty Father, whose mercy is as widely extended as Thy Providence, which is over all Thy works continually: look down with an eye of compassion upon this Thy suffering creature. O let not *his* many and crying sins and offences, prevent Thy mercy towards *him* in this *his* day of visitation and sorrow, but for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ, let Thy grace which can abundantly pardon, cast all *his* sins behind Thy back, and turn Thy face from all *his* iniquities. Remember not *his* follies, *his* infirmities, and *his* past neglect of

Thee. But wash *him* in the precious blood of the Saviour, strengthen and sustain *his* fainting spirit, and speak peace to *his* troubled soul.

It is an awful thing to die! But Thou, O blessed Jesus, the Friend of Sinners, who castest out none who truly and sincerely trust in Thee, have mercy upon *him*. Thou, dearest Lord, canst smooth the ruggid path of death, and make Thy faithful servants rejoice amidst pain and sickness. O Redeemer of the world, support *his* feeble frame, and revive and cheer the drooping soul of this our *brother*, who looks only to Thee for help. When Thou shalt think fit to call *him* hence, grant that *his* passage may be easy, and for Thy merits alone, may *his* released spirit be admitted into the mansions of eternal rest. O Lord, hear our prayers, and let our cry come unto Thee. According to Thy mercy, and for Thy name's sake, shew some token upon us for good, that we may evermore praise Thee. Amen.

A PRAYER,

FOR ONE WHO APPEARS CARELESS AND INCONSIDERATE.

O THOU Creator, Preserver, and Redeemer of the world, the great and the eternal God, with what reverence, admiration, and love, should our hearts be filled towards Thee! Under what

a lively sense of Thy presence, and with what respect to all Thy commands, should we walk before Thee, from the first dawn of our understanding, to the close of our lives! But, alas! how hast Thou, our greatly neglected and injured Benefactor, been forgotten and disregarded by us, Thy sinful creatures! We have had Thy will and Thy ways set before us, but our hearts were hardened and our eyes blinded, so that we would not be persuaded, nor instructed, nor attend to the things that belong to our eternal peace. We have lived as without Thee in the world, though Thou art not far from every one of us, for in Thee we live, and move, and have our being: we are nothing, we have nothing, and can hope for nothing, but of Thee, and from Thee. Yet these considerations have had little or no weight with us, in leading us to seek and to serve Thee. How unmindful have we been of thy mercies, how unthankful for Thy blessings, and how regardless even of Thy threatenings and judgments. The best of us, O Lord!—even those whom Thou hast brought to some sense of their dependence on Thee, and of the duties which they owe Thee, and of the mercies which they have received at Thy hands—may well thus confess before Thee, and lament their sinfulness in Thy sight. But what, O Lord, is our condition, if we have never laid these things to heart; if neither the promises nor the threatenings of Thy word, nor the mercies,

nor the judgments of Thy providence, have produced any lasting impression on our hearts, nor change in our conduct: and we have gone on in a stubborn course of disobedience to Thy commands, and perverse neglect of Thy Gospel, and of the welfare of our souls! Convince us, O Lord, for Thy mercy's sake, convince us of our ingratitude and sin; and bring us, we pray Thee, to a clear perception of our guilt, to a proper sense of our danger, and to a sincere repentance. Especially, we pray Thee, deal thus mercifully with this our sick *brother*. Enable *him* to see and to own that *he* has erred exceedingly, in not regarding the invitations and instructions of Thy word; and that *he* has strayed from Thy ways like a lost sheep, in not regarding Thy commandments. Make *him* sensible, O Lord, that *he* cannot slight Thy mercies, without incurring Thy judgments; and that he cannot live in neglect of Thee, and trifle with Thy commands, and the dictates of *his* conscience, with impunity. Let *him* see that *his* danger is as great as *his* folly, ingratitude, and guilt. Thou art a righteous, as well as a merciful God. Thou wilt call us to an awful account for our carelessness, our neglect, our wilful and presumptuous sins. Destruction and misery are in the ways of them who forget their God. Let not any one of us vainly expect either present peace or futute safety, while he continues a stranger to Thee. Merciful Lord, convince this our sick *brother* that if

he were to remain still at a distance from Thee, *he* must perish for ever. Thy mercy in Christ Jesus is the only ground of hope and security, and this *he* must seek in the manner which Thou hast taught us in Thy Holy Word. Bring *him*, we pray Thee, before it be too late, to an effectual conviction of *his* sin and folly: set the danger of a careless, unconverted state before *him* in the strongest and most affecting light, and point out to *him* the only way to escape it, even by Thy Son Jesus Christ, who is "the way, the truth, and the life." May *he* make haste, to keep Thy commandments. Help *him* to seek Thee whilst Thou mayest be found, and to call upon Thee, whilst Thou art near. Let not *his* heart be any longer hardened through the deceitfulness of sin; but melt and subdue it by Thy heavenly grace. Let *him* be truly converted, that *his* soul may live. Let the numberless sins and transgressions of *his* past life, be washed away in that precious blood which cleanseth from all sin: give *him* that faith which justifies, and sanctifies, and works by love. Give *him* a taste for the pleasures and employments of religion; quicken *his* desires after Thee, and help *him*, with full purpose of heart, to cleave unto the Lord. And, if it be Thy gracious will, raise *him* from the bed of sickness, that *his* future walk and conversation may show that this affliction has been good for *his* soul,

and that *he* may henceforth live to the honour and glory of Thy great name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A PRAYER

WITH AN AWAKENED AND CONVINCED SINNER.

O GOD! awful art Thou in Thy holiness and justice! well might we, who are sinful dust and ashes, fear to come into Thy presence, or to lift up our voice unto Thee. But blessed be Thy holy name, Thou art gracious and long-suffering, and ready to receive every real penitent—every believing sinner. We now kneel before Thee, and present our supplications in the name of Jesus, our great high Priest, in behalf of this our afflicted *brother*, who acknowledges that *he* has grievously offended Thee. *He* knows *his* own lost condition. *He* has heard of the Saviour, and of His merits, mediation, and intercession. *He* has been taught the necessity of repentance and of conversion, and sees that without holiness no man shall see Thy face. *He* is convinced, Lord, of Thy right to *him*, and to all the love and obedience of *his* heart and life. *He* is convinced that Thy laws are holy, just, and good. *He* is convinced of the sinfulness of sin, of the corruption of *his* heart, the wickedness of *his* past life, of the vanity of this world; *he* sees that there is no hope for *him*, but in Thy

free mercy in the Lord Jesus Christ. But *he* fears lest *his* former sins, *his* past neglects, *his* hardness of heart, and contempt of Thy word and commandment, and *his* disregard of Thy reproofs, may have provoked Thee to despise *his* prayer, and to deny *him* that mercy which *his* soul needeth. Permit *him* not, O Lord, thus to limit Thy mercy, nor to disbelieve Thy gracious assurances of pardon and grace to repentant sinners. Speak peace, O Lord, to *his* troubled mind. Say, O blessed Redeemer, say unto this penitent sinner; "Son, be of good cheer, thy sins be forgiven thee."

May *he* have a heart renewed by Thy grace, to believe in Thee with a justifying and saving faith. Thy grace alone can renew the heart, Thy blood alone cleanseth from all sin. *He* has undone *himself;* but in Thee is *his* help. *His* sin has abounded; let Thy grace much more abound. Thy mercy has long spared *him;* perfect Thou that which concerns *him.* Remember *him* with the favour that Thou bearest unto Thy people, and visit *him* with Thy salvation. Lord, heal *his* soul; take away the evil heart of unbelief which has slighted Thee, and departed from the living God. Touch *his* heart with a deep sense of Thy love. Deny *him* not the grace which Thou hast commanded *him* to seek. Thou hast declared, O God of all mercy, that Thou hast no pleasure in the death of a sinner, but wouldest rather that *he* should turn and

live: let Thy mercy be manifested in the salvation of this our *brother:* let Thy grace be sufficient for *his* conversion, and for *his* establishment in the faith: let *him* live the remainder of *his* life, a life of faith, that *he* may live for ever in glory with Thee: let *him* look from *his* own guilt and misery, to the righteousness and mediation of *his* exalted Redeemer; and believing and trusting in Him, may *he* have a well-founded hope that *his* iniquity is pardoned, and that *his* soul will be saved, and *his* affliction removed, for Thy great mercy's sake, and for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

A PRAYER

WITH ONE WHO IS IN A DOUBTFUL STATE.

ALMIGHTY God, who knowest all things, who searchest the heart and triest the reins; known unto Thee are the state and condition of all men; we are ignorant, but from Thee nothing is concealed; we may deceive ourselves, and speak peace to our souls when there is no peace; but we cannot deceive Thee, nor escape Thy righteous judgment. Suffer us not, we pray Thee, to be deluded by any artifice of the enemy of souls, nor by the natural ignorance and blindness of our own hearts, nor by any errors and misconceptions that prevail in the world around us. Give us that sincerity of heart which shall

dispose us anxiously to enquire after Thy truth. Remove every veil that may blind our eyes, and prevent our seeing our true state as in Thy sight: may we so try and examine ourselves by the light of Thy holy word, that it may not longer be doubtful whether we are in the right way, but that our profiting may appear unto all.

Give us, we pray Thee, a clear perception of our lost condition as sinners, and of that method of salvation which Thou hast revealed in the Gospel. Give us for Thy mercy's sake, a right understanding in all things that pertain to our eternal salvation. Let us be really taught of Thee, and brought to know Thee with a saving, and a sanctifying knowledge. O Thou that givest liberally and upbraidest not, we entreat Thee for this heavenly wisdom, and forasmuch as our time is short, and we know not what a day may bring forth, delay not we beseech Thee to bestow it. Especially, grant that this our afflicted *brother* may now be blessed with the effectual teachings of Thy good Spirit. Let not the work which *he* has to do, be done defectively, but work Thou in *him* both to will and to do of Thy good pleasure. Make *his* repentance perfect: enable *him* to examine *his* heart, that *he* may not deceive *himself* with the false hope of Salvation, while destitute of that godly sorrow for sin, that real humility of soul, and that saving belief and trust in the only Saviour of sinners, to which alone Thou hast annexed the promise of eternal life.

Grant, we pray Thee, that this affliction may be the means of purifying *his* heart, of producing humbleness of mind, and of leading *him* with true contrition of spirit, to Christ the only Redeemer, the only hope of fallen man. Let *him* not be deprived of *his* powers of thought and reflection, nor depart out of this world till *his* peace with Thee be secured, and *he* be prepared by Thy pardoning mercy and sanctifying grace, for a state of endless joy in the regions of light and life, and glory. Effect this, and all that is needful for *his* salvation, for Thy goodness sake, through the operation of faith in Thy beloved Son Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

A PRAYER

WITH ONE WHO APPEARS PENITENT IN HIS SICKNESS.

O GOD! the fountain of mercy, who didst send Thy Son into the world to make an atonement for sin, and to call sinners to repentance: and who hast graciously assured us by the word of His mouth, that there is joy in heaven over one sinner that repenteth: look down with an eye of compassion and mercy upon this, our *brother*, who humbly acknowledges that *he* has greatly offended against Thee, by *his* past sins and neglect. Give *him*, we pray Thee, a clear sight of *his* sin in so long neglecting Thy great

salvation, and a deep sense of Thy wrath against impenitent sinners, that seeing *his* danger, *he* may patiently submit to Thy corrections, and be led to the exercise of true and unfeigned repentance. Grant, O merciful God, Thou that willest not the death of a sinner, that *he* may not deceive *himself* by a delusive and imperfect repentance, but may exercise real, godly sorrow, and experience a real change of heart, so that *he* may utterly renounce and forsake all evil ways, break off all evil habits, and being in earnest for *his* salvation, may daily supplicate Thy grace, and for the time to come, be diligent in working out *his* salvation with fear and trembling.

To this end we beseech Thee, to enlighten *his* mind, that *he* may have a clear perception of thy heavenly truth, and see and know that there is none other name given among men, whereby *he* must be saved, but only the name of Jesus Christ. Enable *him* to exercise a justifying and a saving faith, in that blessed Saviour, whom Thou hast given as the sole hope of perishing sinners: He came to seek and to save that which was lost: Lord, let this, our *brother* be among the happy number of those who are found and saved, by that same gracious Saviour. Deliver *him*, O God, from the evils of impatience, distrust, or despair; from the assaults of *his* spiritual adversary, and from all the anguish and distraction of mind which may in any way draw *his* thoughts from the things that belong to *his*

peace. Give *him* submission under this trial, that *he* may bear it in a becoming manner, with a dutiful reference to Thy blessed will. Shew mercy, O Lord, to *him* in *his* affliction; have compassion on *him*, and help *him* now in the time of *his* need; spare *him*, though *he* has deserved punishment, and save *him* now that *he* calls upon Thee. Teach *him* humbly to submit to this, Thy correction, and to bear what Thou shalt see fit to lay upon *him*, with meekness and resignation. This grace must be Thy gift, O God! for of ourselves we are nothing but weakness and sin; this must be the effect of Thy mercy to our souls. Enable this our *brother* therefore, to remember that Thy will is holy, just, and good, and that it is our duty to receive and approve whatever is appointed by Thee. Deal thus graciously with *him* in this *his* affliction, and do as Thou judgest best, for *his* present improvement, and *his* everlasting salvation, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

A PRAYER

WITH ONE IN A GOOD STATE.

O THOU God of all mercy and grace, our reconciled Father in Christ Jesus, we would approach Thee at this time, in an humble confidence in Thy love, and believing that Thou wilt hear and answer our prayers, which we offer up

in Thy dear Son's name. Adored be Thy distinguishing goodness, that Thou hast given us to know Thee as Thou art revealed unto us in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and more especially, that thou hast permitted us to encourage an humble hope that we are made Thy children by adoption and grace. We would believe, O Lord, that Thy ears are open to our prayers, that Thou sittest on a throne of grace, and that Thou wilt accept and bless us for the Redeemer's sake. We are commanded to pray one for another, and Jesus himself has promised, that where two or three are gathered together in His name, there He will be in the midst of them. Let Thy gracious presence be now felt, O merciful Lord; manifest Thyself unto us, as Thou dost not unto the world. We would entreat Thee in behalf of this Thy afflicted servant. Regard *him* we pray Thee with an eye of pity: be *his* advocate with Thy heavenly Father, and obtain for *him* a full and free forgiveness of all *his* sins. We plead for *him* the sacrifice which Thou Thyself didst offer, and the promises of pardon, and grace, and salvation, which are made through Thee.

We acknowledge, O heavenly Father, our utter unworthiness in Thy sight: we are unprofitable servants: we are rebellious servants; enter not into judgment with us, but for Thy tender mercy's sake, pardon all our offences. Give us an abiding sense of Thy loving-kindness, and a filial affection towards Thee.

Put Thy fear in our hearts, that we may never depart from Thee. Deal graciously with this, Thy believing servant, in *his* affliction. Draw the affections of *his* soul towards Thee. Enlighten *him* with the saving knowledge of Thyself and of Jesus the Saviour. Fill *his* heart with a love of Thee: and let Thy kingdom and glory, Thy word, and Thy ways, be *his* frequent meditation. Thy mercy has hitherto kept *him* from a thousand dangers, and has bestowed upon *him* innumerable blessings, both temporal and spiritual. Thy free mercy and grace convinced and converted *him*, renewed and sanctified *his* heart, and formed the image of Christ in *him*. Amazing was the mercy that *he* was not left in an impenitent, unbelieving, state. *He* thanks Thee for the means of grace with which Thou hast favoured *him*, and for the hope of glory which Thou hast set before *him*. *He* looks for eternal life, as the gift of Thy free grace, through Jesus Christ, *his* Lord. *He* has fled to the cross of the Redeemer; *he* has renounced all dependence on any worthiness or desert of *his* own; *he* comes to Thee as a sinner, believing in Christ for pardon and salvation. Let *him* have *his* lot among the followers of Thy beloved Son. Make *him* partaker of all the blessings of the new covenant. Leave *him* not, nor forsake *him*, O God of all faithfulness and truth; and as Thou hast enabled *him* to glorify Thee by believing in Thy name, and trusting in Thy mercy, bring others, we pray

Thee, into the same renewed state. Let Thy Word and Spirit be mighty in convincing sinners, and in turning them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they also may be saved, and received an inheritance among them, who are sanctified by faith which is in Christ Jesus. And let the remaining days of this, Thy servant, be they few or many, be spent for Thy glory.

Finally, if Thou hast determined that this sickness shall be unto death, make *his* departure easy and safe, and give *him* an abundant entrance into the kingdom of glory: but if it be Thy gracious will, give *him* such a degree of renewed health and strength, that *he* may be fitted for *his* duties on earth, and a more active employment in Thy service. In the meantime, O merciful Father, assist *him* in Thy grace in making a right use of this Thy present dispensation towards *him;* may *his* affliction be sanctified to the benefit of *his* soul; and whatever *his* body may suffer, may *he* be daily drawing more near in temper, heart, and mind, to the general assembly and church of the first-born, to the innumerable company of angels, and to the spirits of just men made perfect. Let *his* faith be strong in the last hour, and may *he* derive present support from a sense of Thy love, and from the prospect of heavenly bliss which Thou hast promised in and through Thy Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

A PRAYER

WITH ONE WHO IS SICK, FOR THE RESTORATION OF HIS HEALTH.

WE bow down before Thee, O Lord of heaven and earth, acknowledging that we are utterly unworthy to speak to Thee, either for ourselves or others. When we consider Thy greatness, power, and wisdom, and our own folly, weakness, and unworthiness, we desire with all humility to confess, that we are as nothing in Thy sight. But Thy condescending goodness encourages our approaches to the throne of mercy with hope and confidence, to solicit Thy favours, and to implore Thy assistance, both for ourselves, and our fellow-creatures. Hear us, then, O heavenly Father, for the sake of Thy Son, Jesus Christ, in whom Thou art always well-pleased: in Him we hope to be accepted and blessed in our approaches to Thee.

We would, therefore, in Thy dear Son's name, at this time especially, entreat Thee in behalf of this our afflicted *brother*, who desires our prayers. Regard *him*, we implore Thee, with Thy tender compassion, and be gracious unto *him* according to the necessity of *his* case, and according to the multitude of Thy tender mercies in Christ Jesus. "Correct *him* not in Thine anger, lest Thou bring *him* to nothing." We would, with Thy permission, earnestly entreat that *his* life and health may be precious in

Thy sight: may it be Thy gracious pleasure to restore *him* again to us. We look to Thee alone, O Lord, for this special mercy; and forasmuch as all things are from Thee, and are of Thy providing, we ask Thy blessing upon the means which are prescribed for *his* recovery. Command the disease under which *he* labours, to leave *him:* speak the word only, and *he* shall be healed. Suffer us to plead with Thee, for this mercy at this time: spare *him*, O Lord, spare *him* for Thy goodness' sake: raise *him* up from this bed of sickness that *he* may be a comfort to those who are near and dear to *him*, and a living monument of Thy tender mercy.

In the meantime, O Lord, we would wait patiently on Thee, and beseech Thee, that whatever of temporal good Thou seest fit to withhold from us, Thou wouldst not withhold the help of Thy grace, and the instruction of Thy word, that this visitation may be improved for the good of our souls. Work in us all, we pray Thee, and especially in this our sick *brother*, a true repentance—a repentance not to be repented of. Give *him* and us a lively and steadfast faith in Jesus Christ. Fill us with a powerful sense of Thy fatherly love and tender care over us, and whatever may be Thy allotments, suffer us not to repine, or to be dissatisfied under them. From all the visitations of Thy Providence, may we learn the instability of every worldly enjoyment, and earthly comfort: may we remember that they will one day fail us: and

that there is no other stay, nor hope, nor support, but that which is to be found in Thee as a reconciled God and Father in Christ Jesus. Help us then, O Lord, to sit loose to this world, and to the enjoyments of it, and to delight ourselves more in Thee, and in heavenly things. Thou hast promised to regard the prayer of the poor and afflicted who cry unto Thee, we therefore, pray Thee to help thy servants, who put their trust in Thee. Suffer us to trust in Thy mercy, and to encourage the hope, that this *our brother* shall yet praise Thee in the land of the living; for Thou art the health of our countenance, and our God. Hear us, O Heavenly Father, and give us grace so to live according to Thy Gospel, that we may comfortably look up to Thee at all times, and especially, in a time of affliction and distress, as our constant friend, our only sure refuge, our rest, joy, and salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

A PRAYER

FOR PATIENCE AND SPIRITUAL IMPROVEMENT UNDER AFFLICTION.

O THOU infinitely great and glorious God! Thou killest and makest alive; Thou woundest and makest whole; Thou bringest down to the grave, and bringest back again: Thou doest according to Thy will in the armies of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth,

and none can stay Thy hand, or say unto Thee, What doest Thou? Help us, we pray Thee, to consider that in all the dispensations of Thy Providence, Thou art infinitely wise and good:—righteous art Thou in all Thy ways, and holy in all Thy works. When Thou causest trouble and heaviness to fall upon us, it is that we may learn righteousness from Thy judgments, and receive profit from Thy corrections.

Help our sick and afflicted *brother* thus to regard Thy present dispensations towards *him*. May *he* be resigned to Thy will, and remembering *his* own sinfulness and Thy past mercies, may *he* patiently endure this Thy fatherly correction, and make this a season of humiliation, repentance, and prayer. Wherefore should a living man complain, —a transgressor for the punishment of *his* sins? Let the remembrance of our past neglects and multiplied offences, silence every murmur, and check every repining thought. May we ever bear in mind that the strokes of Thy hand, are fewer than our transgressions deserve, and that Thou hast not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. How long have we laid down, and risen up, come in and gone out, in health, strength, and peace? How small was the tribute of praise and thanksgiving which we rendered unto Thee for these mercies! Forgive us, O Lord, for Thine infinite mercy, all that is past, and enter not into judgment with us, for in Thy sight shall no man living be justified.

Gracious God, Thou knowest our frame, how frail and weak we are; lay no more upon this our *brother* than Thou wilt enable *him* to bear with a becoming submission to thy holy will. Make Thou all *his* bed in *his* sickness, and let patience have its perfect work. Enable *him* by faith to behold the Lamb of God, suffering and dying that *he* might live, and grant that being justified by faith, *he* may have peace with Thee. Thus, O Lord, impart health to *his* soul, and by the sanctifying influences of Thy good Spirit, cause *him* to grow in grace and to go on from strength to strength. And if it be Thy blessed will, abate the violence of *his* pain, soothe the anguish of *his* mind, and in Thy good time, restore *him* again to health, that *he* may have a longer day of grace and salvation, and may prove more diligent and faithful in Thy service than *he* has hitherto been. May *he* be comforted with the thought that these afflictions which are but for a moment, if duly improved, shall work out for *him*, a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. O that *he* may so quietly, meekly, humbly, and cheerfully, resign *his* will to Thine, to suffer what Thou inflictedst, that *he* may be the more ready to do whatsoever Thou dost command. May *his* tribulation work patience, and patience, experience, and experience, hope,—even that hope which maketh not ashamed, but which shall be as an anchor unto *his* soul, sure and steadfast.

Finally, may Christ be the great object of *his*

desire, to know Him and the power of His resurrection, and to be made conformable to Him in all meekness, submission, and patience, that *he* may at length, when the time of *his* pilgrimage and travail here on earth is finished, be a partaker of that heavenly bliss which is promised to all His faithful followers by the same, thy Son Jesus Christ, our only Advocate and Mediator, to whom with Thee, O Father, and Thee, O Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

A PRAYER

WITH ONE WHO IS IN GREAT PAIN.

O ALMIGHTY God, our only refuge and strength, who art a very present help in the time of trouble, whose power and goodness are infinite, we most earnestly beseech Thee graciously to look down upon this our afflicted *brother*, and to send *him* ease and comfort, if it be Thy blessed will, in this time of *his* distress. Thou knowest *his* anguish, and *his* groaning is not hid from Thee, O let Thine eye pity, and Thy hand save, for vain is the help of man. We would acknowledge, O Lord, the justice of Thy dealings with *him*, and that any thing that we can suffer on earth, falls far short of our ill-deserts in Thy sight. Yet, O Lord God, remember, we pray Thee, our weakness, how unable we are to

stand before Thee when Thou art angry, and for Thy mercy's sake in Christ Jesus, spare us though we have deserved punishment, and let not the extremity of Thy wrath fall upon us. Pardon, O Lord, the sins of this our suffering *brother*: let *him* have peace with Thee, through the blood of the Cross. Remember the sufferings of Thy beloved Son in our behalf, and—by His agony and bloody sweat, by His cross and passion, we beseech Thee to hear our prayers. Send help, O Lord, from Thy holy place. We know that Thou canst deliver *him*, to Thee, therefore, do we look for the relief which *he* needs.

Suffer not the violence of *his* pain to distract his mind, to transport *him* into any rash or unbecoming expressions, or to cause *him* to entertain hard thoughts of Thee; but whatever evil, or pain, or sorrow, *he* may feel, let *him* still submit to Thy will, and still believe Thee to be a kind and merciful Father, even while Thou art smiting and correcting *him*. Pardon, we pray Thee, every faulty degree of impatience which may have appeared in *him*, and incline us on our part, to pity *his* suffering condition, and to make every allowance for infirmities which we may soon be made to feel; and to endeavour by sympathy, and tenderness, to relieve and lighten those sorrows which we cannot prevent or remove.

Accept, O Lord, we beseech Thee, for Thy goodness' sake, our sincere and united prayers for the mercies which we now implore at Thy hands,

and which we are encouraged to hope for, through the gracious promises of Thy word, and all the prevailing intercession of Thy Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

A PRAYER

FOR ONE WHO IS TROUBLED IN MIND.

MOST gracious and merciful Lord God, Thou knowest our frame, how weak we are, and Thou alone, by the power of Thy Spirit, art able to give peace and rest to the troubled in mind; regard with Thy wonted compassion, and remember with Thy tender mercy, this our distressed *brother*, whose soul is cast down and disquieted within *him*. Thy wrath lies hard upon *him*, and all Thy waves have gone over *him*. O Thou blessed Redeemer, whose voice the winds and the waves obey; settle and quiet *his* discomposed thoughts: speak peace to *his* troubled mind. Be not angry with *him*, O Lord, for ever: pity and forgive; let light from Thee shine into *his* soul, and lead *him* to Thee for help and consolation, and every good that *his* soul needeth. Unto thee do we look for relief, O Thou great Physician both of body and soul! Give him hope and comfort, and a sure sense of Thy pardon and love. Lord, help *his* unbelief and increase *his* faith; show some token upon *him* for

good, that *he* may be encouraged to rely wholly on Thee. In the multitude of the sorrows that *he* has in *his* heart, let Thy comforts come and refresh *his* soul. Be Thou pleased, O Lord, to deliver *him* from this painful state of anguish and suffering: ease *him* of the load that lies so heavy on *his* spirit; and shed on *him* a beam of Thy heavenly light, to scatter and dispel all the clouds and darkness which now rest upon *his* mind.—Gracious Father, pity *his* frailty, and forgive *his* sin: heal *him*, O Lord, both in soul and body. Incline *his* ears to wholesome counsel: prepare *his* heart for the reception of heavenly instructions. Make *him* satisfied and settled in a right understanding of all good things, and do Thou lift up the light of Thy countenance upon *him*, and *he* shall be whole. Suffer no perplexing thoughts to weaken *his* faith, or to obstruct *him* in *his* Christian course. Let not Satan get an advantage over *him*. Direct *him* to the proper means of escaping temptation, and suffer not the trial to exceed the strength which Thou shalt impart. May *he* obtain mercy, and find grace to help, in this *his* time of need. Make the hopes and promises which Thy blessed Gospel sets before *him*, effectual to *his* comfort and edification. Bring *his* soul out of prison that *he* may praise Thy name.

And finally during the continuance of *his* trial, may *he* look to Thee alone for deliverance, and hope only in Thy tender mercy, and do Thou make haste to help *him* that *he* may speak with

gladness of what Thou hast done for *his* soul. Enable *him* to look beyond those doubts and fears which so frequently harass and perplex *his* mind, and obstruct *his* comfort here, to that blessed state, where there are neither doubts, nor fears, nor pains, nor sorrows, and where every tear shall be for ever wiped away; all this, and every mercy and blessing, we ask in the name and for the sake of the blessed Redeemer, who Himself bare our infirmities, and who died for our sins, but who now liveth to make intercession for us, even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ANOTHER PRAYER

FOR ONE TROUBLED IN MIND.

O BLESSED Lord God, the Father of mercies, the only source of all good, we entreat Thee to regard with Thy wonted pity and compassion, us, Thy sinful creatures, who flee unto Thee for succour, in this our time of need. We confess before Thee, O Lord, that our sins have deserved more grievous punishments than those we feel; but we sue unto Thee for mercy in the name of that Saviour, who is the only Mediator between God and man: regard, we beseech Thee, that all-sufficient sacrifice which he made for all mankind; let it procure for us pardon and acceptance; let it especially be efficacious in

behalf of this our distressed *brother*, who desires to cast *himself* entirely on Thy mercy in Christ Jesus. Let the power of it prevail against all the powers of darkness: let the wisdom of it make *him* wise unto salvation; and let the peace of it, reconcile *him* to Thee, O merciful Father, and bring *him* peace of mind, and joy in the Holy Ghost. Give *him*, we pray Thee, a right understanding of *his* condition, and of Thy will: let *him* truly humble *himself* under Thy chastening hand, and may *he* never cast away *his* confidence in Thy mercy, but do Thou cause *him* to see and know, that it is in very faithfulness that Thou hast laid this affliction upon *him*.

And if, O Lord, Thou shalt see fit to prolong the time of this trial, and to defer the hour of deliverance, yet let *him* not be thereby utterly cast down as one without hope; but enable *him* to wait with patience for Thine own wisely appointed time, when Thou wilt clear up *his* doubts, scatter *his* fears, remove *his* sorrows, and make *him* know assuredly, that it is good for *him* to have been afflicted. In the meantime, O Lord, stand by *him* in all *his* temptations: let not the enemy of *his* salvation prevail against *him*, but do Thou comfort and assist *him*, and give *him* the shield of faith, whereby *he* may be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one, so that trusting in Thee and Thy promises, *he* may at last be more than a conqueror through the great Captain of *his* salvation, who was Himself made perfect by

sufferings, and is now at the right hand of God to make intercession for us.

Suffer us, then, O Thou compassionate lover of souls, to come unto Thee, for Thou hast invited all that are weary and heavy-laden, and hast promised to give them rest. Thy word assures us that Thou art able to save unto the uttermost all that come unto God by Thee; and Thou hast promised that those who do come unto Thee, Thou wilt in no wise cast out. Accept, O gracious Saviour, this our distressed *brother*, for great is Thy mercy towards penitent sinners: say unto *his* soul—I am thy salvation. Send the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, to cheer, and enlighten, and purify *his* soul; let His bright beams dispel those dark thoughts and fearful apprehensions which terrify and discompose *his* mind, so that *he* may ever have cause to praise and glorify Thy holy name, and to tell what great things Thou hast done for his soul.

Now to Him who alone is able to keep us from falling, and to present us faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy—to the only wise God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be rendered continual praise, adoration, and love, for ever and ever. Amen.

A PRAYER

TO BE USED WITH ONE IN OLD AGE.

O THOU that art the God of our lives, and the length of our days, the Creator, Preserver, and Benefactor of men: Thou art from everlasting to everlasting: Thy years fail not; we are but of yesterday, and our longest term is but a span: our life is but a vapour that appeareth for a little time and then vanisheth away, and yet upon this short and uncertain space our eternal happiness depends. We have no power over our own lives to retain our spirits, when demanded by Thee: our times are in Thy hand. Thou hast given to this thy servant length of days, and *he* now seems to stand on the verge of eternity. The time is now come when earthly delights afford *him* no pleasure, and *he* feels the burden of a body doomed to decay, and the many infirmities which years bring with them. Oh! be Thou gracious unto *him* according to *his* many necessities and the multitude of Thy tender mercies in Christ Jesus. Cast *him* not off, O Lord, in the time of old age, forsake *him* not now when *his* strength faileth *him*. Be Thou the strength of *his* heart, and *his* portion for ever. Assist *him*, O Lord, by Thy grace, to finish the work which Thou hast given *him* to do. Let nothing be omitted that may conduce to the well-being of *his* soul; enable *him* frequently to re-

view *his* past life; to exercise true and unfeigned penitence, and a lively faith in Christ *his* Saviour. Preserve *him* from the sins and failings incident to his state and circumstances: support *him* under the decline of nature, and while the outward man decays, may the inner man be renewed day by day. May *he* be a bright example of faith and patience: a credit to the Gospel, and an additional instance of thy never-failing truth and faithfulness, who hast promised never to leave nor forsake them that trust in Thee. O Thou, that art the God of hope, now earthly comforts fail *him*, give *him*, we pray Thee, for Thy love and Thy mercy's sake, joy and peace in believing; make *him* to abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost. Impart unto *his* soul a bright anticipation of heavenly bliss—a peaceful expectation of that rest which remaineth for the people of God.

His remaining days on earth, are but few: make them, O Lord *his* best days: and though *he* may be wholly laid aside from active employment in Thy service, still may *he* be enabled to glorify Thee by a cheerful resignation to Thy will, and by humble patience under *his* infirmities, so that *he* may encourage all who witness *his* example, to follow those, who through faith and patience, inherit the promises.

In the closing scenes of *his* life, may Thine Almighty arm sustain and support *him*. Ease *his* dying bed: enlighten the dark valley of the

shadow of death: give *him* the inward comforts arising from the saving and consoling truths of Thy Word: let a constant remembrance of Thy redeeming mercy cheer *his* soul. Render *his* passage from this world to the next, not only safe, but as little painful and alarming as the nature of *his* disease may permit; and let death, so dreadful to many, appear to *him* as a friendly messenger to introduce *his* soul into the habitations of the blessed. In the mean time, may *his* few remaining moments be employed in trimming *his* lamp, and making ready to meet *his* Lord. May faith, hope, and charity, encircle *his* heart; and may *he* show, in every possible way, *his* love to Christ *his* only Saviour and Redeemer, and *his* love to *his* fellow-creatures, for Christ's sake.

And, forasmuch as we see that every man, in his best estate, is but vanity, and that there is no man living that shall not see death, let us remember not only how short, but how uncertain our time is, that we may be preparing to meet our God, and that when our time cometh to die, we may not quit this mortal scene with a heavy heart, with a confused account, and in dreadful fears, but may depart in peace, sleep in Jesus, and being absent from the body, may be present with the Lord. We earnestly pray that this may be the happy case with each of us, and with all who are near and dear to us, through the merits and mediation of our Lord and only Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

A PRAYER

WITH ONE WHO HAS DEFERRED HIS REPENTANCE TILL DEATH APPROACHES.

MOST merciful and gracious Lord God, encouraged by Thy goodness, and hoping in Thy tender compassion which was manifested for the salvation of sinners by the gift of Thy only dear Son, we approach Thy mercy-seat at this time, in behalf of our fellow-creature and fellow-sinner, who has heretofore neglected Thy calls to repentance, and has been deaf to all Thy reproofs. He is sensible, O Lord, of *his* lost and undone state: *he* acknowledges *his* manifold rebellions against Thee; *his* former hardness of heart and contempt of Thy Word and Commandment; but *he* now cries unto Thee for mercy, and beseeches Thee to spare *his* never-dying soul. Hear Thou, according to Thy recorded mercies, and according to the hopes which Thy Gospel affords to perishing sinners, hear the supplication of a miserable offender, deeply sensible of *his* guilt and wretchedness. *He* has slighted and abused Thy great mercy which has so often kindly warned *him* of *his* guilt, and called *him* to repentance by the most tender and forcible motives. *He* confesses *his* sins before Thee; *he* sees *his* desert; *he* acknowledges the justice of that sentence of condemnation which *his* conscience and Thy holy law pronounce upon *him;* and *he* attributes it only to Thy forbearing good-

ness and long-suffering, that *he* is not utterly and for ever undone, and consigned to darkness, despair, and misery, in another world. But, O Lord most merciful, Thou hast graciously declared that there is forgiveness with Thee; that Thou desirest not the death of a sinner, but rather that he should repent and live. At this the eleventh hour, cause *him* to turn and seek Thy pardon and grace. Let *him* at length be reconciled to Thee through the blood of the atonement. O, let *him* cast *himself* upon that love which gave a precious Saviour to a lost world. O, let that faithful saying, which is worthy of all acceptation, bring peace to *his* troubled soul. Let *him* believe, with a saving faith, that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners, of whom *he* acknowledges *himself* to be the chief. O most gracious God, and reconciled Father, deal not with *him* according to *his* sins, neither reward *him* according to *his* iniquities: Thou art God, and not man: Thy ways are above our ways let the precious blood which Thy Son Jesus Christ shed on the cross for sinners, plead for *his* pardon and salvation: let Thy grace be manifested in *his* free forgiveness. Grant to *him*, we beseech Thee, the influences of Thy Holy Spirit to enlighten *his* mind, to purify *his* affections, and to quicken *his* soul with new and spiritual life.

He desires to thank Thee for what *he* has heard of Thy mercy through Jesus Christ; and that Thou hast so far awakened *his* conscience, and

disposed *his* heart to seek salvation from Thee. Perfect Thou that which concerneth *his* eternal well-being, before *he* go hence and be no more seen. *He* entreats Thee, most gracious God, to impress *his* soul still more deeply with these things; to quicken more and more *his* repentance and faith, and so to renew *him* in body, soul, and spirit, that *he* may spend the short remains of *his* life in Thy true fear, and find, at the awful hour of death, Thy gracious support. Encouraged by Thy never-failing goodness, we would fain look for this special mercy at Thy hands. Hear us, most merciful Father, and grant these our earnest requests: hear us, most merciful Saviour, and deliver the soul of this our *brother* from eternal death; hear us, O Holy Spirit, and be the source of light and life, and heavenly affections in *his* soul; hear us, O blessed Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

A PRAYER

WITH ONE WHO HAS DECLINED FROM RELIGION.

O LORD God Almighty, great art Thou and greatly to be feared! Who knoweth the power of Thy wrath? well might creatures so polluted with sin, as we are, fear to come into Thy presence, or to raise their eyes towards the throne of Thy Majesty: but to Thee belong

mercy and forgiveness, though we have rebelled against Thee. Lord, pity Thy erring creatures: O, remember not our sins against Thee, but remember Thine own loving-kindness and mercy, which have been ever of old. We have gone astray, every one in his own way; we have forsaken our own mercies; we have hardened ourselves against Thy reproofs, and have set Thy threats at defiance; and, above all, we have slighted Thy invitations and promises; and by this departure from Thee, and from the ways of godliness, by this neglect of the precepts of Thy Word, we have justly incurred Thy displeasure, we have abused Thy grace, and hazarded the loss of our souls.

But, O Lord God of all compassion, who desirest not the death of a sinner, but rather that he should be converted and live, we beseech Thee, for the Redeemer's sake, to have mercy upon us, and especially upon this our distressed *brother*, who humbly acknowledges *his* sinfulness in Thy sight. Gracious Lord, *he* knows that *he* has nothing to plead with Thee, but Thy own compassion and mercy for lost and undone sinners, in providing an atonement for them, and in appointing Thine only Son Jesus Christ to be their friend and advocate in the courts of heaven.—Blessed be Thy holy name for the gracious assurance, that, if any man sin, we have an advocate with Thee, Jesus Christ the righteous, and that He is the propitiation for our sins. Hear

us, O Lord, for His name's sake—for all that He has done and suffered for the salvation of a lost world, and have mercy on this our *brother*. Turn *him*, O Lord, and *he* shall be turned: shew the light of Thy countenance upon *him*. and *he* shall be whole. Let *his* soul be converted. and it shall live. *His* conscience reproaches *him*. and *his* heart is troubled within *him*. *He* feels *himself* deprived by this backsliding, which *he* confesses, of that evidence of *his* conversion, and that hope and confidence in Thee, through Jesus Christ, which *he* once thought *he* had attained unto; but now *he* fears that *he* has too much reason to question whether *he* has ever known Thy grace in truth, and whether *his* former profession was not insincere and delusive. But, O thou God of all grace and mercy, leave *him* not, we pray Thee, in this state of fear and perplexity. Let the bright beams of Thy love shine into *his* soul; give *him* the spirit of true repentance; renew *his* soul unto faith, and love, and holiness. Despise not *his* prayer; reject not *his* petition which *he* presents in the name and through the mediation of Thy well-beloved Son, in whom Thou art always well pleased. Blessed be Thy goodness, O Lord, that there are hopes and assurances for returning sinners in and through Jesus Christ. Let the precious blood that was shed on the Redeemer's cross, purify *his* soul from all sin and uncleanness, and do Thou give *him* grace to bring forth fruits meet

for repentance, that henceforth *he* may not serve sin, but may live as becometh the Gospel of Thy Son.

Gracious God! may we and this our afflicted *brother* seriously consider that the Christian life is a continual warfare, that we are beset with many and great dangers, and that our adversary, the devil, continually goeth about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour, that so we may be more vigilant and circumspect in our daily walk and conversation, and may give the more heed to make our calling and election sure. Grant that we may watch and pray, lest we enter into temptation: grant that we may carefully avoid all occasions of falling for the future, and keep at a distance from the snares of Satan. May we well consider that if, after we have escaped the pollutions of the world, we be again entangled therein and overcome, the latter end will be worse than the beginning; and that it would be better for us not to have known the way of life, than after we had known it, to turn aside from the holy commandment. Make us, we pray Thee, duly sensible of this danger, and save us from it. And, forasmuch as Thou knowest our weakness, and the corruption of our hearts, keep us back, we beseech Thee, from presumptious sins, and forgive our manifold transgressions in thought, word, and deed: pardon what we have done in direct violation of Thy laws and of our special obligations, and what we

have omitted to do as in duty and conscience we were bound; because, if Thou shouldest be extreme to mark what is done amiss, we could only look for Thy wrath and severe displeasure. We have destroyed ourselves, but in Thee is our help: O revive our souls, and especially the soul of this our *brother*, with a sense of Thy pardoning love, and a hope of a full and free forgiveness, and of everlasting rest.

And now that Thou art dealing with *him*, let it be with mercy, lest Thou bring *him* to nothing. We know that without holiness no man shall see Thy face, that the wages of sin is death, and that tribulation and anguish, indignation and wrath, await all those who do evil, and die in an unpardoned and unconverted state; we pray Thee, therefore, to spare this Thy poor creature, and grant *him* further time for the exercise of repentance, and to manifest the reality of *his* conversion, that, by the aid of Thy grace, *he* may make it the great business of *his* future life to finish the work which Thou hast given *him* to do. Put Thy fear in *his* heart, that *he* may never more depart from Thy ways: may *he* conquer, and finally subdue all *his* corrupt and sinful affections, and attain all those graces which adorn the Christian character, and are the fruits and evidences of a living faith. May *he* be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might, and proceeding from strength to strength, may *he* grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus

Christ, so that finally an entrance may be ministered to *him* abundantly into Thy heavenly kingdom, through the same Thy Son our only Advocate and Mediator, to whom with Thee, O Father, and Thee, O Holy Spirit, be all praise and honour, for ever and ever. Amen.

A PRAYER

WITH A SICK PERSON WHEN THERE APPEARS A HOPE OF RECOVERY.

WE would thank Thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that Thou hast in mercy heard our petitions in behalf of Thine afflicted servant, and hast given *him* a reviving hope, that Thou wilt yet spare *him* awhile, and lengthen the day of *his* probation on earth. Blessed be Thy goodness, that *he* hath not made *his* bed in the dust: hitherto Thou hast sustained and supported *him*, and hast not suffered this affliction entirely to overwhelm *him;* Thou hast blessed the means that were used for *his* recovery: perfect Thou the cure which Thou hast begun in *him;* forsake not the work of Thine own hands. Thou bringest down to the grave, and Thou bringest up; the issues of life and death are in Thy hands. O Thou Preserver of men, as Thou hast in mercy granted some abatement in the sickness of this our *brother*, and hast

begun to revive and quicken him again, we entreat Thee to perfect *his* cure, and to restore *him* to health as heretofore. Repair all the decays in *his* outward man, and may the inner man be renewed day by day. Teach *him* henceforth to look up to Thee continually, as a merciful and reconciled Father in Christ Jesus, forgiving iniquities, transgressions, and sins, for the Redeemer's sake. Thou wilt not always be chiding, Thou keepest not Thine anger for ever; Thou hearest and answerest the prayers of the contrite soul; Thou deliverest the poor and needy out of *his* affliction. May we learn henceforth, to make Thee our refuge in the day of trouble; and to look to Thee only, as the Source of life and health, and the Giver of every comfort and support: and give us grace always to make such a right use of Thy favours, that we may daily find ourselves surrounded by the light of Thy countenance, and may enjoy the blessings of Thy heavenly benediction in all our ways, whether in adversity, or prosperity, in sickness, or in health.

If it should seem fit to Thee, O Lord, still to protract the time of the recovery of this our afflicted *brother*, give *him* in the mean time, Thy heavenly consolation from above: enable *him* daily to improve the time of *his* visitation for his future benefit. Fill *him* with comfortable thoughts of Thy love, and of the tender compassionate care with which our Lord Jesus

Christ regards his afflicted people. Endue *him* still with a more patient submission to Thy will, and enable *him* both quietly to wait upon Thee till Thou shalt restore *his* health and strength, and also to continue steadfastly resolved to serve Thee more faithfully, and to cleave to Thee more fully, during the days that Thou shalt add to *his* life. All these mercies and blessings we humbly ask, in the name and through the mediation of our blessed Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

A PRAYER

WITH A SICK PERSON, WHEN SICKNESS CONTINUES LONG UPON HIM.

MERCIFUL Father, we would believe that Thou dost not willingly afflict or grieve the children of men, we would regard Thee as Thou art revealed unto us in Jesus Christ, as not dealing with us according to our sins, nor rewarding us according to our iniquities, as ever ready to pity and forgive. Look down, we humbly beseech Thee, with an eye of compassion on Thy poor distressed creature, who has suffered so long under this trying affliction. We pray Thee, O Lord, to let *him* see the end and design of this dispensation of Thy providence; let it speedily effect the beneficial purpose for which, as we trust, Thou hast in mercy

sent it: give *him* grace to humble *himself* under Thy mighty hand; and for Thy mercy and truth's sake, lay no more upon *him* than Thou wilt enable *him* patiently and profitably to endure. Help Thy servant, O Thou merciful Redeemer, and lover of souls, to undergo this affliction which Thou hast permitted to befal *him*. with patience and resignation. Lead him gently by the hand to the waters of comfort, and let Thy rod and Thy staff support him. If relief does not come from Thee, so soon as he expects or desires, enable *him* still to wait with patience for it: and whatsoever Thou doest with *him*. let *him* not open *his* mouth to murmur or repine, because it is Thy doing. Make *him* to acquiesce and rest satisfied, even in the most trying dispensations of Thy providence: and let no pains or sufferings ever drive *him* from Thee. Let *him* consider Thee, O blessed Lord and Master, in all Thy weary pilgrimage and sufferings here upon earth, before Thou enteredst into glory, that *he* be not weary and faint in *his* mind. O let *him* learn Thy statutes in this school of affliction: let *him* seek Thee early, and when *his* heart is overwhelmed, let *him* rest upon Thee, the rock of *his* salvation. Let the remainder of *his* life be Thine, and let nothing separate *him* from Thy love and service, and let it be *his* whole care to prepare for eternity; so that all the days of *his* appointed time, *he* may patiently wait till *his* change come, and be ready whenso-

ever *his* Lord shall call *him*. We know, O Lord God, that there is nothing too hard for Thee, but that if Thou wilt, Thou canst bring *him* up even from the gates of death, and grant *him* a longer continuance among us: if it be Thy good pleasure, still to continue *him* here, remove from *him*, we pray Thee, this heavy affliction, under which *he* has so long groaned. For this end, we entreat Thee, to bless all the means that are prescribed for *his* relief and recovery: and to give *him* ease and refreshment under this wearisome sickness. Help *him* in the meantime, in remembrance of Thy past loving-kindness, to trust in Thy goodness, to submit to Thy wisdom, and to bear with an even mind what Thou thinkest fit to lay upon *him*, so that *he* may absolutely resign himself, both soul and body, to Thy wise disposal.

Unto Thy infinite mercies in Christ Jesus, we commend *him*, and beseech Thee, for the Redeemer's sake, to hear all the prayers of *his* sympathizing friends in *his* behalf, and to send *him* help now in the time of *his* need. Raise *him* up again if it be Thy blessed will, to praise Thee in the assemblies of Thy saints upon earth; or, if Thou hast otherwise disposed, let *him* praise Thee in the great assembly of saints and angels in heaven, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour, to whom with Thee and the Holy Spirit, be rendered all praise, love, and obedience, world without end. Amen.

A PRAYER

FOR A PERSON WHO IS IN AN INSENSIBLE STATE.

O ALMIGHTY Maker and Preserver of men, who knowest our frame, how frail and weak we are; how soon our powers both of body and mind may fail us: and the ablest and strongest among us become weak and insensible, look down from heaven in pity and compassion upon this our afflicted *brother*, who is now altogether unable to look up to Thee. We entreat Thee, for Thy mercy's sake, in Christ our Lord, that compassionate Saviour who when on earth, forgave sins and cured every bodily disease, to pardon all the sins of this our afflicted fellow-creature, and to pity *his* weak and insensible condition. The less able *he* is to pray for *himself*, the more need hath *he* of our prayers, and of Thy tender mercy. Hear, therefore, O most merciful Father, our supplications in *his* behalf. Deal mercifully with *him*, O Lord, for *he* is entirely in Thy hands: enter not into judgment with *him*: impute not to *him* any of *his* former transgressions: lay not to *his* charge *his* past neglect in not duly improving *his* reason and understanding: and while *he* remains thus lost to all about *him*, and to the considerations which become his condition, be pleased to quiet and compose *his* spirits, and to preserve *him*

from evil. Let not the enemy approach to hurt *him*. Forsake *him* not, O Lord our God; be not far from *him*. Make haste to help *him*, O Lord, the God of our salvation. Be pleased to dispel by the bright beams of Thy loving mercy, the clouds of darkness which now rest upon the understanding of our *brother*, and unfit *him* both for the duties which become *his* afflicted condition, and for receiving aright the attentions of those who minister unto *him*. Lord, pity both *him* and them, and restore *him* again to a right use of those faculties which Thou hast given us for our own comfort and safety, and for Thine own glory.

But if it be Thy will to remove *him* hence in this state of insensibility to the things of this life, Lord, grant that *his* soul may not be left in darkness, in regard to the things of the next; but that being pardoned by Thee, through the Redeemer's blood, *he* may escape with joy from the prison of the body, and be admitted into the realms of light and peace, and everlasting bliss. We commend *him* altogether into Thy gracious keeping: receive *him*, O Lord, into the arms of Thy mercy, and accept *him* for Thy well beloved Son's sake; free is Thy grace, let it be glorified in the salvation of this Thy suffering creature; that so this short night may quickly be turned into everlasting day; and after these dark shadows are removed, *he* may in Thy light see light, and praise Thee for evermore. Amen.

A PRAYER

WITH ONE THAT IS BED-RIDDEN.

O LORD, our God, our only help and support, Thou who art the Giver and Preserver of life, and who art able to renew and restore the powers and faculties which are Thy gracious gifts, we entreat Thee, in behalf of this Thy servant, who has been kept so long under Thy chastening hand. Thou knowest, O Lord, *his* weak and suffering condition. Thou seest that *he* is unable to rise from this bed of languishing: *he* is in a state of continual weakness and dependence; regard *him*, we pray Thee, with Thy wonted goodness, and compassion, and afford *him* that comfort and consolation which *his* suffering condition requires. We know not how to pray to Thee aright, nor do we know what condition may most conduce to our eternal well-being: but surely, O Lord, our God, we cannot err in asking mercy at Thy hands—mercy for the sake of Jesus Christ our compassionate Redeemer. Show then, we beseech Thee, some token for good upon this Thy *servant*. Remember *him* with the favour that Thou bearest unto Thy people, and visit *him* with Thy salvation: make *him* acquainted with Thy gracious design in visiting *him* with this affliction, and cause it to work together with all Thy dispensations towards *him*, for *his* eternal good, and for the setting forth of Thy glory. Grant that *he* may not be impatient under Thy chastisement, but let *him* reflect how in the days

of *his* health and strength *he* followed too much the devices and desires of his own heart, and was too negligent of the things that belong to *his* eternal peace. Teach *him*, O gracious Father, to see love and mercy in Thy rod, and justice in all Thy dealings, that *he* may humble himself under Thy mighty hand, and that *he* may think it good for *him* to have been afflicted, and patiently wait for Thy loving-kindness.

Yet that *his* faith fail not, and *his* patience be not overcome, let Thy special consolations support *his* drooping spirits and refresh *his* weary mind, which is ready to sink within *him*, at the thoughts of perpetual confinement. Give *him* seasonable and refreshing sleep, and rest to *his* weary thoughts. And when *he* is kept waking, cause *him* to meditate on Thee in the night watches, and to commune in *his* own heart, and in *his* solitude, to search and try *his* ways, that *he* may see wherein *he* has erred, and may turn to Thee with all *his* soul, and cleave to Thee with full purpose of heart. Let this affliction be the means of purifying *his* soul, and of preparing *him* for admission into Thy presence, where there is fulness of joy. Make *him* thankful, that though Thou hast shut *him* out from the occupations and enjoyments of this life, Thou hast not deprived *him* of the means of spiritual improvement, nor excluded *him* from those pleasures and delights which are to be found in communion with Thee. For this cause, may *he*

learn to glory in tribulations, and take pleasure in infirmities. May *he* see cause to bless Thee that Thou hast taken *him* out of a world, by the snares and temptations of which, he might have been seduced from Thy ways, or prevented altogether from attending to the things that belong to *his* eternal peace.

Thou art an all-sufficient God. Thou canst support Thy people in every trial, and under every deprivation, and Thou hast promised that Thou wilt never fail them that trust in Thee; be Thou the strength and consolation of the soul of this Thy servant; and grant, O Lord, that *he* may have a continual sense of Thy merciful goodness, and be so perfectly resigned to Thy blessed will, that *he* may never give way to repining thoughts, nor dishonour Thy name by murmuring against Thee. Give *him*, we pray Thee, such freedom from acute pains, and such composure of mind, that *he* may be continually occupied in devout meditations on Thy word, and in sending up *his* petitions to Thy throne of grace and mercy, both for *himself* and for all *his* fellow-creatures. Hear us, O Heavenly Father, because Thou art good and gracious, and because Thou hast invited us to lay our sorrows before Thee, and to make known our requests unto Thee in prayer; and because Thou hast promised for Thy dear Son's sake, to regard the cry of the humble and penitent—hear us, and do for us far more abundantly than we are able to ask or think, through Him

who loved us, and gave himself for us, even Christ our only Saviour and Redeemer. Amen.

A PRAYER

WITH A PERSON SUFFERING FROM A GRIEVOUS ACCIDENT.

O ALMIGHTY Lord God, the great disposer of all events, without whose permission not even a sparrow falleth to the ground, and who hast taught us that the afflictions which befal us, are by Thy appointment: we would look unto Thee as our only help and refuge, in all our trouble, and in all our suffering. We acknowledge that Thou art just in all Thy ways, though Thy judgments are far above, out of our sight. Sinners we are, O Lord, and as such, deserving only Thy severest chastisements. Merciful Lord, regard with an eye of pity this our *brother*, now suffering from the heavy calamity which Thou hast permitted to overtake *him*. Though Thou hast smitten *him*, yet we pray Thee, for Thy mercy's sake, give *him* not over unto death. For Thy beloved Son's sake, who Himself was bruised for our iniquities, regard *his* suffering condition: give *him* ease from *his* pain, and if it be Thy blessed will, recover *him* from the effects of the calamity under which *he* suffers. Thou hast, as it were, in a moment brought *him* low, but let *him* humble *himself*

under Thy mighty hand; let *him* earnestly seek Thy pardoning mercy, and Thy saving grace, and let *his* soul be reconciled unto Thee, through the all-sufficient atonement which Thy love hast provided. Pardon, for Thy dear Son's sake, all *his* past neglects, all *his* former misapplication of time, health, and strength, and grant. that this affliction which has happened to *his* body, may be the means of good to *his* soul. Thou canst bring good out of evil in a way that we know not of; overrule what has befallen this our *brother*, and cause it to work together with Thy other dispensations towards *him*, for *his* eternal welfare.

Great God! enable *him* to submit patiently to Thy chastening, and to bear the effects of Thy displeasure with a submissive mind. Let *him* say with Thy afflicted servant of old, "shall we receive good at Thy hand, and shall we not also receive evil"! The good is Thy free gift, and flows from Thy mercy, the evil is the desert of our sins, which provoke Thee to smite us. Lord, grant this our *brother* patience, and strength, and grace, proportionable to this great trial which *he* is called to endure, and enable *him* so to demean *himself* under it, that it may yield the peaceable fruit of righteousness. Enable *him* while *he* is kept under Thy chastening hand, to search and try *his* ways, and to bring forth fruits meet for repentance. Calm Thou the anguish of *his* mind, heal *his* soul, and in Thy good time, heal *his*

body also. If Thou wilt, Thou canst make *him* whole: may it be Thy good pleasure to glorify Thy power and mercy in *his* speedy recovery. But, however Thou shalt dispose of this frail body which is "crushed before the moth," grant *him* peace with Thee, through Jesus Christ; and enable *him* in humble resignation to wait upon Thee till *his* change come. And cause us, and all who hear of this disaster, with true compassion of heart to sympathize with *his* affliction, and to be ready not only to pity *his* suffering condition, but to do all in our power to soothe *his* anguish and to comfort *him* in *his* distress.

And, forasmuch as we know not the dangers to which we are continually exposed, let us see the necessity of committing ourselves daily to Thy merciful protection, and let us be warned to stand prepared for a change, and above all things, to attend to the one thing needful—the care of our souls: that when death comes upon us, we may not be taken by surprise, nor hurried in an unprepared state to the bar of Thy judgment. O Lord, hear our prayers, pity our weakness, relieve our infirmities, sanctify our trials, and pardon all our sins, for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

A PRAYER

FOR A PERSON SEIZED WITH ANY EPIDEMIC OR INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

O ALMIGHTY Lord God, in whose hands are the issues of life and death, have compassion on us miserable sinners, who call upon Thee now in the day of trouble. The urgency of our need, compels us to flee unto Thee for succour. In the name of Thy beloved Son, we humbly entreat Thee, to spare us for Thy mercy's sake; justly, have we deserved Thy wrath: justly, mightest Thou destroy us from the face of the earth; justly, mightest Thou cast us out of Thy presence; for we have rebelled against Thee. But, O Lord God of all mercy and grace, enter not into judgment with us: for when Thou art angry, who shall stand in Thy sight? Who can abide Thy fierce indignation? If the breath of Thy displeasure pass over us, we are smitten in a moment—we are withered like grass—we die, and are turned to our earth.—Lord, Thou hast been angry with us, and hast sent the angel of death among us: Thou hast smitten us with a grievous disease: we are falling before the rod of Thy correction: but, O Lord God, gracious and merciful art Thou, in judgment still remember mercy: let not the number and greatness of our sins, still cause Thee to afflict; but let the greatness of Thy goodness, and the

largeness of Thy compassion, prevent the just infliction of Thy punishments.

Behold, O Lord, with an eye of pity, this our afflicted *brother*, in whose behalf especially, we now venture to intercede before Thee. Pardon, O Lord, pardon, for the Redeemer's sake, and forgive *his* sins: graciously save *him* with that salvation which Thou hast provided in Jesus Christ. O reject *him* not utterly, but take away Thy plague from *him*. Thou hast smitten *him*—Lord, make *him* whole. Return, O Lord, and that speedily, for *his* strength faileth: O leave *him* not in *his* extremity, give *him* not over to the power of death: say to the raging disease, "It is enough:" speak the word only, and *he* shall be healed. To Thee, O Lord, do we cry; Thou art our only refuge in this calamity: O spare us for Thy mercy's sake, for Thou art the Almighty God; Thou art able both to save, and to destroy, to kill, and to make alive. Lord, Thou knowest that we are in a great trial and perplexity; we fear for our lives; our *brother*, whom we now behold a spectacle of misery, was lately like one of us, in perfect health. O let Thy protection shield those who are exposed to danger, by acts of duty and charity towards those who are suffering under Thy chastening hand: Lord, save us or we perish. We know, O Lord, that we have no special claims upon Thee for exemption, yet O Lord, most merciful, we entreat Thee to

preserve us amidst the danger that threatens, and to hear our prayers, and to bless our exertions in behalf of our suffering fellow-creatures. Grant unto us true repentance, lest we likewise perish; and grant that those who are seized with the disease, may have time to obtain Thy mercy, or may be spared as monuments of thy grace, and living instances of Thy forbearing goodness. Into Thy merciful hands we commend this our suffering *brother:* deal favourably with *him* we earnestly entreat Thee, for Jesus Christ's sake: Lord, spare *his* soul, and heal *his* body, if it be Thy gracious will.

Saviour of sinners! who by Thy cross and passion hast redeemed us, save and help this our suffering *brother:* turn Thou again at the last and be gracious unto *him.* To Thee, O Thou gracious Redeemer, do we cry in the hour of our necessity; save us for Thy name's sake, for great is Thy mercy: Lord, intercede for us: Lord, protect us from the destruction that threatens us; stay the hand of the destroying angel: avert the evil that hangs over us; be Thou our life, and health, and salvation, both now and at the hour of death. O Lord, the Creator, O Lord, the Redeemer, O Lord, the Sanctifier, we perishing sinners do beseech Thee, the one Almighty ever-living God to hear us, for Thy mercy and for Thy truth's sake. Amen.

A THANKSGIVING

AFTER RECOVERY FROM A DANGEROUS SICKNESS.

BLESSED Lord, the only living and true God, the Creator and Preserver of all things, we live by Thee, and our whole dependance is upon Thee. We now kneel before Thee, to bless Thy holy name for those mercies which, in so large a measure, Thou hast been pleased to bestow upon us. O! how much have we to say of Thy goodness by our own experience, and of the succour which Thou hast afforded us in the time of need. Of a truth Lord, Thy compassions fail not, and Thy mercies endure for ever. Worthy art Thou to receive all honour and glory; mercifully accept both our persons and our services at the hands of our gracious High Priest and powerful Intercessor, Jesus Christ.

This our *brother*, O Lord, desires at this time especially, to praise Thee, for the deliverance which Thou hast wrought for *him*. *He* was perplexed and sore troubled; *he* counted *himself* nigh unto death; *his* heart failed *him*, *his* strength was gone, and there seemed to be no help for *him*. Then didst Thou, O Lord, interpose between *him* and the threatening destruction; Thou broughtest *him* back from the mouth of the grave, Thou hast saved *him* from the jaws of death; Thou hast renewed *his* strength, and restored *his* comforts. Thou

art the God that doest wonders: blessed be Thy holy name, that Thou didst not despise *his* prayer: Thou hast been *his* support and refuge in the day of *his* trouble. We desire, therefore, O Lord, to unite with *him* in offering to Thee our devout acknowledgments, and to present unto Thee our unfeigned thanks and praise. May a sense of Thy great goodness, lead us to repentance; may we feel unfeigned sorrow for our past sins and neglects: and may this fresh instance of Thy love, constrain us to render unto Thee the service of our future lives.

Cause this Thy servant whom Thou hast in mercy healed of *his* bodily sickness, to be more diligent in seeking the health of *his* soul. What reason has *he* to praise Thee that *he* is yet in the land of the living, and has yet a further opportunity afforded *him*, of becoming better acquainted with the things that belong to *his* eternal peace, and of glorifying Thee on earth, that *he* may be more meet to see Thy face, and to serve Thee in the world to come. How awful the consideration, if *he* had been snatched away in an unprepared condition! How unspeakable the mercy that *he* is yet on praying ground, and that Thou hast dealt so graciously with *him* in the time of *his* visitation! May *he* never forget the serious impressions which *he* felt in the prospect of a speedy dissolution; may *he* never forget the value which *he* then put upon a sense of Thy pardoning mercy; may *he* never forget

the renewed obligations which Thy sparing goodness has laid *him* under, to cleave steadfastly unto Thee, and to order the whole course of *his* life according to Thy commandments. Thou hast in mercy prolonged *his* life, may *he* never forget the signal deliverance which Thou hast wrought for *him*; still *he* must view it only as a reprieve—a brief addition to the span of life, for it is appointed unto all men once to die: and we none of us know not how soon.

Let not any of us then, live in a careless state, as if death were at a distance: nor reckon upon any sure standing or long continuance here: for this changeable, transitory world, is not our home: here we have no continuing city: we should seek one to come. Enable us, therefore, by the influence of Thy good Spirit, and the instruction of Thy word, to walk with such wise and holy circumspection, as becometh strangers and pilgrims on earth, and the citizens of a heavenly country. May we pass all the time of our sojourning here, in fear of offending Thee our God, and of departing from Thy ways. May we be ever giving Thee thanks for Thy never-failing goodness, and be more watchful and diligent in proportion to the mercies received at Thy hands. Let us pay our vows unto the Lord, and from the ground of our heart ascribe unto Thee, the God of our salvation, all glory, praise, thanks, and service, through Jesus Christ, now and for evermore. Amen.

BRIEF

MEDITATIONS AND PRAYERS.

I.

THE night cometh when no man can work. John ix. 4.—Lord, grant that I may never forget that *now*, *now* is the time in which to provide for eternity. Give me true repentance, and stedfast faith in Thy Son Jesus Christ; that my sins may be done away, and my pardon sealed in heaven, before I go hence and be no more seen. Thy Word says, (*Prov.* xxviii. 13,) "Whoso confesseth and forsaketh his sin, shall have mercy." Discover to me, O Thou Searcher of Hearts, the charge that is against me: that I may know, and confess, and bewail, and abhor, and forsake, and repent of all the evils of my heart and life. Have mercy upon me, have mercy upon me, most merciful Father, who desirest not the death of a sinner—for Thy Son Jesus Christ's sake, forgive me all that is past. And, O Blessed

Advocate, who art able to save them to the uttermost who come unto God by Thee, seeing Thou ever livest to make intercession for us, I put my cause into Thy hands; let Thy power defend me; Thy blood and merits plead for me: —procure for me a full discharge of all my guilt before I die: and by Thy mighty grace enable me to put on the new man, which after God, is created in righteousness, and true holiness, that my death may be a blessing to me, and that I may find mercy at the great day.

II.

"*ALL that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and come forth.*" John v. 28.—May this awful declaration oblige me to work out my salvation with fear and trembling, that through the merits of Jesus Christ, and faith in His blood, I may hear His voice with joy, and come forth unto the resurrection of life everlasting. O Lord Jesus Christ, who hast redeemed us with Thy precious blood, make me to be numbered with Thy saints in glory everlasting. O let my name be found written in the Book of Life at that day.

III.

"*AND at midnight there was a cry made, behold, the bridegroom cometh, go ye out to meet Him.*" Matt. xxv. 6.—Grant, O Lord, that I may not be of the number of those who dread Thy coming.

IV.

"*WATCH, therefore, for ye know neither the day, nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.*" Matt. xxii. 13.—Give me, O Lord, that desire and earnest longing, which I ought to have for the happy moment which is to release me from this state of banishment, and translate me to a better place, and grant that I may never lose sight of that important moment. Let me have my lot and portion with Thy saints. "Being justified by faith, may I have peace with Thee, through our Lord Jesus Christ."—*Rom.* v. 1.

V.

"*WHOSOEVER believeth in Jesus Christ, shall not perish, but have eternal life.*" John iii. 15.—Lord, I believe—help Thou mine unbelief. Increase my faith:—be it unto Thy servant according to Thy word.

VI.

"*AND deliver them who through fear of death, were all their life-time subject to bondage.*" Heb. ii. 15.—My God! let Thy glory be magnified by saving a sinner—by redeeming a captive—by enlightening a heart filled with darkness—by changing a corrupt heart—by pardoning innumerable transgressions, iniquities, and sins. If my hopes were placed upon any thing but the infinite mercies of God in Jesus Christ, which can never fail, I should utterly despair. These, O Lord, are Thine own words "*Whosoever shall*

call on the name of the Lord shall be saved." Give me leave to trust in them, to depend on them both now, and at the hour of death.

VII.

"*IT is the Lord: let Him do what seemeth Him good.*"—1 *Sam.* iii. 18.—Lord, be merciful unto me; heal my soul, for I have sinned against Thee. For Thy name's sake, O Lord, be merciful unto my sin, for it is great.

VIII.

"*THE Lord is nigh unto them that are of a contrite heart, and will save such as are of an humble spirit.*" Psalm xxxiv. 18.—And now, Lord, what is my hope? Truly my hope is in Thee. My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever.

IX.

"*LORD, Thou knowest whereof we are made: that we are but dust.*" Psalm ciii. 14.—Despise not, O Lord, the work of Thine own hands. O Thou that never failest them that seek Thee, have pity on me.—Nevertheless, though I am sometimes afraid, yet put I my trust in Thee. O Lord, I beseech Thee, deliver my soul. Gracious is the Lord and righteous; yea, our God is merciful. O go not far from me, for trouble is at hand, and there is none to help me. The sorrows of my heart

are enlarged: O bring Thou me out of my troubles.

X.

O KEEP my soul, and deliver me: let me not be confounded, for I have put my trust in Thee. Withdraw not Thy mercy from me, O Lord: let Thy loving-kindness and Thy truth always preserve me. Shew Thy servant the light of Thy countenance, and save me for Thy mercy's sake.

XI.

THOU, O Lord, art full of compassion and mercy, long-suffering, plenteous in goodness and truth.—Hath God forgotten to be gracious? and I said,—It is mine own infirmity: but I will remember the years of the right-hand of the Most High. I plead Thy promises, O God, to pardon all who truly repent. I plead Thy goodness, O Lord, and willingness to forgive. But above all, I plead the merits and propitiation of my Advocate, Jesus Christ the Righteous, for the pardon of all my sins.

XII.

STRENGTHEN my faith in Thy promises, O Lord, that I may be comforted in the thought that Thou art my God, my Father, and my Friend, ever present, ever able, and willing to help me; hear my petitions, and answer them in the time and manner which Thou knowest to be really best for my final good.

XIII.

INTERCEDE for me, O Lord Christ, as Thou didst for Peter, that my faith fail not: especially in the hour of death.

Suffer me not, O my God and Redeemer, to be tempted above what I shall be enabled to bear. Oh! give me patience and resignation: Oh! preserve my soul: say to the tempest that lies hard upon me—Peace, be still. Pity Thou my weakness, and stretch forth Thy hand and save me.

XIV.

BE merciful unto me, O God, and impart light and liberty to my soul. I groan, and am burdened, not with imaginary evils, but with the actual evils of my own heart. Lord, vouchsafe to help me: save Lord, or I perish. Give me, I pray Thee, some manifest token of Thy loving-kindness, for Thy great name's sake, that I may make mention of Thy faithfulness and truth. Give me patience, O Lord, to endure the affliction that lies hard upon me: and for Thy goodness' sake, lay no more on me than Thou wilt enable me to bear, and shew me, for Thy mercy's sake, some way to escape.

XV.

GRACIOUS Lord! I have to deplore the evils of my heart. Oh! give me grace to submit to Thy will; enable me to see the operations of Thy hand, and cause me to feel the influence

of Thy good Spirit subduing my soul to the obedience of faith. Lord! increase my faith. Weak it is at the best. Lord, preserve me from temptation, and deliver me if tempted. Oh! let me experience Thy goodness and mercy in such a degree, as shall convince me that Thou hast a regard for me, and hearest my prayer.

XVI.

"*IN every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God.*" Phil. iv. 6.—I fix my thoughts upon this passage of God's word, as encouraging me to hope that my prayers will at length be heard, and that I am not acting presumptuously in bringing the perplexities of my mind before the Lord. O Lord, let me spread my distresses before Thee, as Hezekiah spread the threatening letter which he received. Lord, my troubles threaten to overwhelm me, and I am without strength to contend with the waves that go over my soul;—manifest thy mercy unto me and save me. Have compassion, merciful Father, for thy dear Son's sake, on my infirmity; suffer me not to sink in despondency; hear my prayer and that soon, lest if Thou make as though Thou hearest not, I be like unto them that go down into the pit.

XVII.

ALAS! how prone am I to forget God when not kept under His chastening hand; and how

ready to faint am I, when He corrects. O Lord, pity my frailty, and pardon my sinfulness: strengthen me with might in the inner man, and vouchsafe to me such a degree of comfort as may be beneficial to me. Enable me to live more by faith on Thee: give me encouragement in Thy ways; be unto me a God and Father in Christ Jesus.

XVIII.

VOUCHSAFE unto me, O my God, some clear manifestation of Thy love and mercy: let me see and acknowledge Thy hand stretched out for my help. Undeserving as I am of the least of Thy mercies, yet for Thy name's sake, and for the sake of Jesus, Thy beloved Son, let me see and know that Thou art good and gracious, and that I am under Thy gracious guidance and protection.

XIX.

GRACIOUS God! Thou alone canst preserve me. Lord, grant me thy pardon for all that is wrong in me, and grant me strength to resist evil, and to bear with firmness the trials to which I am exposed. Endue my soul with patience; for I am often ready to fail. Convince me, Lord, that Thou hearest and answerest prayer, and though Thou mightest justly leave me to perish, yet let me praise Thee for a merciful deliverance. For Jesus Christ's sake, pity and relieve me.

XX.

O INFINITE and eternal God, I would entreat Thee for the Redeemer's sake, to hear my prayers. Convince me Lord, that Thou hast not said, 'Seek my face,' in vain. If I have not prayed aright, teach me how I ought to draw near unto Thee: pardon my offences and save me from the evils which I feel and fear. The pressure of my affliction makes me earnest, O let Thy good Spirit cleanse the thoughts of my heart. Remember how frail I am, and spare me though I deserve punishment, and for Thy great goodness sake, sustain and support me, and suffer not my foot to slip. For Jesus Christ's sake, hear this my supplication.

XXI.

LORD, enable me to act in all things as becomes my Christian profession: banish from my mind every feeling that is contrary to a Christian frame of soul, and forgive what Thou hast seen amiss in me. Deliver me from all my offences, and make me not a rebuke unto the foolish. O Lord, make me thankful for what Thou hast hitherto done for me, and let me receive fresh tokens of Thy loving kindness: though I am unworthy of Thy notice, yet forsake not the work of Thy hands. Put a period to my adversity; say—It is enough. If it be possible, O Lord, let this cup pass away from me; yet enable

me to say, "Thy will be done." Lord Jesus, remember me, and intercede for me.

XXII.

O LORD God Almighty, have pity upon me, a poor wretched creature. Oh! spare me for Thy mercies' sake. I would believe that Thou art a God of mercy: because Thou didst so love the world, as to give Thine only Son as a Saviour and Redeemer of lost man. Oh! save me, or I perish. Lord, pity my griefs; pardon my sins and my errors, and show me some token of Thy goodness and mercy. Thou knowest my anguish—Thou knowest my weakness—Thou knowest my danger. O Lord, help and save. Long have I looked for some interference on Thy part. Why hidest Thou Thyself in the time of my trouble? Remember, O Lord, how short my time is! Why Lord, should I go mourning all my days? Hear the cry of one who is in misery. O convince me that it is not in vain to call upon Thee.

XXIII.

MAY the gracious God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, keep and preserve me, and hear my prayers. Thou O Lord, art good and doest good, our expectations cannot be too large from Thee: let me receive a blessing from Thy hand; let me obtain pardon and grace, and every mercy for the Redeemer's sake.

EJACULATIONS.

O LORD, of whom may I seek for succour, but of Thee, who for my sins art justly displeased? Yet, O Lord God most holy, O Lord most mighty, O holy and most merciful Saviour deliver me not into the bitter pains of eternal death.

O HOLY and merciful Saviour, Thou most worthy Judge eternal, suffer me not at my last hour for any pains of death, to fall from Thee.

FATHER, I have sinned against Heaven and before Thee, and am not worthy to be called Thy child; yet O Lord, do not Thou cast off the compassions of a father; but even as a father pitieth his own children, so be Thou merciful to me.

O MY God! I know that no unclean thing can enter into Thy kingdom, and I am nothing but pollution; my very righteousness is as filthy rags; O wash me and make me white in the blood of the Lamb, that so I may be fit to stand before Thy throne.

LORD! the snares of death compass me round about, O, let not the pains of hell also take

hold upon me; but though I find trouble and heaviness, yet O Lord, I beseech Thee, deliver my soul.

O BLESSED Saviour, who hast bought me with the precious price of Thine own blood: save now, or I perish.

O BLESSED High Priest, who art able to save them to the uttermost who come to God by Thee, save me, I beseech Thee, who have no hope, but in Thy merits and intercession.

O MERCIFUL Saviour, I have, by my many and grievous sins, crucified Thee afresh: yet Thou who prayedst for thy persecutors, intercede for me also, and suffer not O my Redeemer, my soul redeemed by the price of Thy blood, to perish.

O SPIRIT of Grace! I have by my frequent rebellions, done despight to Thee, yet, O blessed Comforter, though I have often grieved Thee, be Thou pleased to succour and relieve me, and say unto my soul—Jesus is thy salvation. Mine eyes look unto Thee, O Lord! in Thee is my trust, O cast not out my soul.

O LORD, in Thee have I trusted, let me never be confounded.

O BLESSED Lord, who scourgest every son whom Thou receivest, let me not be weary of Thy correction, but give me such a perfect sub-

jection to Thee the Father of Spirits, that this chastisement may be for my profit, that I may thereby be partaker of Thy holiness.

O THOU Captain of my salvation, who wast made perfect by sufferings, sanctify to me all the pains of body, all the terrors of mind which Thou shalt permit to fall upon me.

LORD! my sins deserve eternal torments, make me cheerfully and thankfully to bear my present pains,—chasten me as Thou pleasest here, that I may not be condemned with the world hereafter.

O GRACIOUS Lord, who didst humble Thy self to the death of the cross for me a miserable sinner, let that death of Thine sweeten the bitterness of mine. Thou drankest the bitter cup, let it pass away from me. Thou art the Resurrection and the Life, he that believeth in Thee, though he were dead, yet shall he live: Lord, I believe—help Thou mine unbelief.

WHEN Thou hadst overcome the sharpness of death, Thou didst open the kingdom of heaven to all believers. I pray Thee therefore, help Thy servant whom Thou hast redeemed with Thy most precious blood.

MY flesh and my heart faileth, but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever.

I desire to put off this my tabernacle, O be pleased to receive me into an everlasting habitation.

BRING my soul out of prison, that I may praise Thy name.

I AM here in heaviness, through many tribulations; O receive me unto that place of rest, where all tears shall be wiped from my eyes, where there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying, nor pain.

I AM here in a state of banishment from the Lord; O take me where I shall for ever behold Thy face, and follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth.

MERCIFUL Saviour! enable me to say—I have fought a good fight—I have finished my course—I have kept the faith—henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness.

O BLESSED Jesus, who hast loved me and washed me from my sins in Thine own blood. receive my spirit.

INTO Thy hands I commend my Spirit for Thou hast redeemed me, O Lord God of truth.

THE God of all grace, who hath called us unto His eternal glory, by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you. To Him be glory and dominion, for ever and ever. Amen.

NOW our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and God even our Father, who hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation, and good hope through grace . comfort your hearts, and 'stablish you in every good word and work. —2 *Thess.* ii. 16, 17.

NOW the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

THE VISITATION OF THE SICK.

¶ *When any person is sick, notice shall be given thereof to the Minister of the Parish; who, coming into the sick person's house, shall say,*

PEACE be to this house, and to all that dwell in it.

¶ *When he cometh into the sick man's presence, he shall say, kneeling down,*

REMEMBER not, Lord, our iniquities, nor the iniquities of our fore-fathers. Spare us, good Lord, spare Thy people whom Thou hast redeemed with Thy most precious blood, and be not angry with us for ever.

Answer. Spare us, good Lord.

¶ *Then the Minister shall say,*

Let us pray.

Lord have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

OUR Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation. But deliver us from evil. Amen.

Minister. O Lord, save Thy servant;

Answer. Which putteth *his* trust in Thee.

Minister. Send *him* help from Thy holy place.

Answer. And evermore mightily defend *him.*

Minister. Let the enemy have no advantage of *him;*

Answer. Nor the wicked approach to hurt *him.*

Minister. Be unto *him,* O Lord, a strong tower,

Answer. From the face of *his* enemy.

Minister. O Lord, hear our prayers:

Answer. And let our cry come unto Thee.

Minister.

O LORD, look down from heaven, behold, it and relieve this Thy servant. Look upon *him* with the eyes of Thy mercy, give *him* comfort and sure confidence in Thee, defend *him* from the danger of the enemy, and keep *him* in perpetual peace and safety, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

HEAR us, Almighty and most merciful God and Saviour; extend Thy accustomed goodness to this Thy servant who is grieved with sickness. Sanctify, we beseech Thee, this Thy fatherly correction to *him;* that the sense of *his* weakness may add strength to *his* faith, and seriousness to *his* repentance. That if it shall be Thy good pleasure to restore *him* to *his* former health, *he* may lead the residue of *his* life in Thy fear, and to Thy glory: or else give *him* grace

so to take Thy visitation, that after this painful life is ended, he may dwell with Thee in life everlasting, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ *Then shall the Minister exhort the sick person after this form, or other like.*

DEARLY beloved, know this, that Almighty God is the Lord of life and death, and of all things to them pertaining, as youth, strength, health, age, weakness, and sickness. Wherefore, whatsoever your sickness is, know you certainly that it is God's visitation. And for what cause soever this sickness is sent unto you, whether it be to try your patience for the example of others, and that your faith may be found in the day of the Lord laudable, glorious, and honourable, to the increase of glory and endless felicity; or else it be sent unto you to correct and amend in you whatsoever doth offend the eyes of your heavenly Father: know you certainly that if you truly repent you of your sins, and bear your sickness patiently, trusting in God's mercy, for His dear Son Jesus Christ's sake, and render unto Him humble thanks for His fatherly visitation, submitting yourself wholly unto His will, it shall turn to your profit, and help you forward in the right way that leadeth unto everlasting life.

¶ *If the person visited be very sick, then the Curate may end his exhortation in this place, or else proceed.*

TAKE therefore in good part the chastisement of the Lord: For (as Saint Paul saith in the twelfth chapter to the Hebrews) whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth. If ye endure chastening,

God dealeth with you as with sons: for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not! But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. Furthermore, we have had fathers of our flesh, which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure: but He for our profit, that we might be partakers of His holiness. These words, good *brother*, are written in holy Scripture for our comfort and instruction, that we should patiently, and with thanksgiving, bear our heavenly Father's correction, whensoever by any manner of adversity, it shall please His gracious goodness to visit us. And there should be no greater comfort to Christian persons, than to be made like unto Christ, by suffering patiently adversities, troubles, and sickness. For He himself went not up to joy, but first He suffered pain: He entered not into His glory before He was crucified. So truly our way to eternal joy is to suffer here with Christ: and our door to enter into eternal life is gladly to die with Christ: that we may rise again from death, and dwell with Him in everlasting life. Now therefore, taking your sickness, which is thus profitable for you, patiently, I exhort you in the Name of God, to remember the profession which you made unto God in your Baptism. And forasmuch, as after this life there is an account to be given unto the righteous Judge, by whom all must be judged without respect of persons: I require you to examine yourself and your estate, both toward God and man; so that accusing and condemning yourself for your own faults, you

may find mercy at our heavenly Father's hand for Christ's sake, and not be accused and condemned in that fearful judgment. Therefore, I shall rehearse to you the Articles of our Faith, that you may know whether you do believe as a Christian man should, or no.

¶ *Here the Minister shall rehearse the Articles of the Faith, saying thus,*

DOST Thou believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth?

And in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son our Lord? And that He was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary; that He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; that He went down into hell, and also did rise again the third day; that He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, and from thence shall come again at the end of the world, to judge the quick and the dead?

And dost Thou believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy Catholic Church, the Communion of Saints, the Remission of sins, the Resurrection of the flesh, and everlasting life after death?

¶ *The sick person shall answer.*

All this I stedfastly believe.

¶ *Then shall the Minister examine whether he repent him truly of his sins, and be in charity with all the world; exhorting him to forgive from the bottom of his heart all persons that have offended him, and if he hath offended any other, to ask them forgiveness; and where he hath done injury or wrong*

to any man, that he make amends to the uttermost of his power. And if he hath not before disposed of his goods, let him then be admonished to make his Will, and to declare his Debts, what he oweth, and what is owing unto him, for the better discharging of his conscience, and the quietness of his Executors. But men should often be put in remembrance to take order for the settling of their temporal estates, whilst they are in health.

¶ *These words before rehearsed may be said before the Minister begin his prayer, as he shall see cause.*

¶ *The Minister should not omit earnestly to move such sick persons as are of ability, to be liberal to the poor.*

¶ *Here shall the sick person be moved to make a special Confession of his sins, if he feel his conscience troubled with any weighty matter. After which Confession, the Priest shall absolve him (if he humbly and heartily desire it) after this sort.*

OUR Lord Jesus Christ, who hath left power to his Church to absolve all sinners who truly repent and believe in Him, of His great mercy forgive thee thine offences: And by His authority committed to me, I absolve thee from all thy sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

¶ *And then the Priest shall say the Collect following.*

Let us pray.

O MOST merciful God, who according to the multitude of Thy mercies, dost so put away the sins of those who truly repent, that Thou rememberest them no more; Open thine eye of mercy upon this Thy servant, who most earnestly desireth pardon and forgiveness. Re-

new in *him*, most loving Father, whatsoever hath been decayed by the fraud and malice of the devil, or by *his* own carnal will and frailness: preserve and continue the sick member in the unity of the Church; consider *his* contrition, accept *his* tears, assuage *his* pain, as shall seem to Thee most expedient for *him*. And, forasmuch as *he* putteth *his* full trust only in Thy mercy, impute not unto *him his* former sins: but strengthen *him* with Thy blessed Spirit, and when Thou art pleased to take *him* hence, take *him* unto Thy favour, through the merits of Thy most dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ *Then shall the Minister, say this Psalm.*

In te, Domine, speravi. Psal. lxxi.

IN Thee, O Lord, have I put my trust, let me never be put to confusion; but rid me and deliver me in Thy righteousness; incline Thine ear unto me, and save me.

Be Thou my strong hold, whereunto I may alway resort: Thou hast promised to help me, for Thou art my house of defence, and my castle.

Deliver me, O my God, out of the hand of the ungodly: out of the hand of the unrighteous and cruel man.

For Thou, O Lord God, art the thing that I long for: Thou art my hope even from my youth.

Through Thee have I been holden up ever since I was born Thou art He that took me out

of my mother's womb; my praise shall be always of Thee.

I am become as it were a monster unto many: but my sure trust is in Thee.

O let my mouth be filled with Thy praise: that I may sing of Thy glory and honour all the day long.

Cast me not away in the time of age: forsake me not when my strength faileth me.

For mine enemies speak against me, and they that lay wait for my soul, take their counsel together, saying, God hath forsaken him, persecute him, and take him; for there is none to deliver him.

Go not far from me, O God: my God, haste Thee to help me.

Let them be confounded and perish that are against my soul: let them be covered with shame and dishonour, that seek to do me evil.

As for me, I will patiently abide alway; and will praise Thee more and more.

My mouth shall daily speak of Thy righteousness and salvation: for I know no end thereof.

I will go forth in the strength of the Lord God: and will make mention of Thy righteousness only.

Thou, O God, hast taught me from my youth up until now: therefore will I tell of Thy wondrous works.

Forsake me not, O God, in mine old age, when I am gray-headed: until I have shewed

Thy strength unto this generation, and Thy power to all them that are yet for to come.

Thy righteousness, O God, is very high, and great things are they that Thou hast done: O God, who is like unto Thee?

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, &c.

As it was in the beginning, is now, &c.

¶ *Adding this.*

O SAVIOUR of the world, who by Thy Cross and precious Blood hast redeemed us, Save us and help us, we humbly beseech Thee, O Lord.

¶ *Then shall the Minister say,*

THE Almighty Lord, who is a most strong tower to all them that put their trust in Him, to whom all things in heaven, in earth, and under the earth do bow and obey, be now and evermore thy defence, and make thee know and feel, that there is none other Name under heaven given to man, in whom, and through whom thou mayest receive health and salvation, but only the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

¶ *And after that shall say,*

UNTO God's gracious mercy and protection we commit thee. The Lord bless thee and keep thee. The Lord make His face to shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee. The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee and give thee peace, both now and evermore. Amen.

A Prayer for a sick child.

O ALMIGHTY God and merciful Father, to whom alone belong the issues of life and death; Look down from heaven, we humbly beseech Thee, with the eyes of mercy upon this child now lying upon the bed of sickness: Visit *him*, O Lord, with Thy salvation; deliver *him* in Thy good appointed time from *his* bodily pain, and save *his* soul for Thy mercies' sake. That if it shall be Thy pleasure to prolong *his* days here on earth, *he* may live to Thee, and be an instrument of Thy glory, by serving Thee faithfully, and doing good in *his* generation; or else receive *him* into those heavenly habitations, where the souls of them that sleep in the Lord Jesus enjoy perpetual rest and felicity. Grant this, O Lord, for Thy mercies' sake, in the same Thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. *Amen.*

A prayer for a sick person, when there appeareth but small hope of recovery.

O FATHER of mercies, and God of all comfort, our only help in time of need; We fly unto Thee for succour in behalf of this Thy servant, here lying under Thy hand in great weakness of body. Look graciously upon

him, O Lord; and the more the outward man decayeth, strengthen *him* we beseech Thee, so much the more continually with Thy grace and Holy Spirit in the inner man. Give *him* unfeigned repentance for all the errors of *his* life past, and stedfast faith in Thy Son Jesus, that *his* sins may be done away by Thy mercy, and *his* pardon sealed in heaven, before *he* go hence, and be no more seen. We know, O Lord, that there is no word impossible with Thee; and that if Thou wilt, Thou canst even yet raise *him* up, and grant *him* a longer continuance amongst us. Yet, forasmuch as in all appearance the time of *his* dissolution draweth near, so fit and prepare *him*, we beseech Thee, against the hour of death, that after *his* departure hence in peace and in Thy favour, *his* soul may be received into Thine everlasting kingdom, through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ Thine only Son, our Lord and Saviour. *Amen.*

A commendatory Prayer for a sick person at the point of departure.

O ALMIGHTY God, with whom do live the spirits of just men made perfect, after they are delivered from their earthly prisons; We humbly commend the soul of this Thy servant, our dear *brother*, into Thy hands, as into the hands of a faithful Creator, and most merciful Saviour; most humbly beseeching Thee that

it may be precious in Thy sight. Wash it, we pray Thee, in the blood of that immaculate Lamb that was slain to take away the sins of the world; that whatsoever defilements it may have contracted in the midst of this miserable and naughty world, through the lusts of the flesh, or the wiles of Satan, being purged and done away, it may be presented pure and without spot before Thee. And teach us who survive, in this and other like daily spectacles of mortality, to see how frail and uncertain our own condition is, and so to number our days, that we may seriously apply our hearts to that holy and heavenly wisdom, whilst we live here, which may in the end bring us to life everlasting, through the merits of Jesus Christ Thine only Son our Lord. *Amen.*

A Prayer for persons troubled in mind or in conscience.

O BLESSED Lord, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comforts, We beseech Thee look down in pity and compassion upon this Thy afflicted servant. Thou writest bitter things against *him*, and makest *him* to possess *his* former iniquities; Thy wrath lieth hard upon *him*, and *his* soul is full of trouble: But, O merciful God, who hast written Thy holy Word for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of Thy holy Scriptures might have

hope; give *him* a right understanding of *himself*, and of Thy threats and promises, that *he* may neither cast away *his* confidence in Thee, nor place it any where but in Thee. Give *him* strength against all *his* temptations, and heal all *his* distemper. Break not the bruised reed, nor quench the smoking flax. Shut not up Thy tender mercies in displeasure; but make *him* to hear of joy and gladness, that the bones which Thou hast broken may rejoice. Deliver *him* from fear of the enemy, and lift up the light of Thy countenance upon *him*, and give *him* peace, through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

ADMINISTRATION

OF THE

LORD'S SUPPER TO THE SICK.

Too many who have led a careless, and perhaps, a wicked life, will, when they apprehend themselves in danger of death, send for their Minister to give them the Sacrament. The steward of the mysteries of God, has now a painful, but a necessary duty to discharge: he is bound faithfully to admonish such persons, that if they have not sincerely repented of their past sins and neglect; if they are destitute of faith in Christ: if they have no love of holiness: in short, if they are not renewed by Divine grace, and if they are not totally different from what they formerly were, in the days of their health, and carelessness, then, they are in a state altogether unfit to participate in that sacred ordinance, nor have they any right to expect it to be administered unto them.

It is the minister's bounden duty therefore, according to the directions of the Rubric for the Visitation of the Sick, to examine whether the sick person desiring to receive the sacrament, has repented him truly of his sins, and is in charity with all his fellow-creatures; and to exhort him "to forgive from the bottom of his heart, all who have offended him: and if he hath offended any other, to ask their forgiveness: and where he hath done wrong to any man, that he make amends to the uttermost of his power."

If these important points are duly attended to, and the Gospel method of salvation through Christ is understood and approved, the minister should endeavour to instruct the sick person in the true nature and design of the Holy Ordinance, of which he is desirous of being a partaker.

It was instituted by Christ himself,—

1. As a remembrance of His own sufferings and death for our sakes:

2. As a seal of confirmation of the blessings purchased by Christ for sinners: viz. pardon of sins, sanctification by the work of the Spirit, and eternal life.

3. As a mark or badge of our being fellow members of Christ's body, children of one Father, redeemed by one Saviour, and heirs of the same glory.

These points being explained, the minister may set before the sick person the benefits to be derived from the ordinance by a pious communicant.

It will promote humility and godly sorrow for sin.

It will confirm his faith in Christ his Redeemer.

It will excite gratitude to God for such a Saviour.

It will increase love to Christ, and hatred of sin, for the expiation of which, He suffered death on the cross.

It will promote obedience to His commands, and lead to an imitation of His example.

It will tend to an increase of faith in all the Divine promises.

It will promote love to all the members of Christ's body, and to mankind in general.

It will raise the thoughts upwards to that world, to which Christ is gone before.

It will confirm the expectation of a glorious resurrection, and of everlasting bliss.

Such being the important purposes for which this Holy Rite was instituted, and the important benefits which it was intended to convey, it is evident that none but the devoutly disposed, and rightly instructed Christian, can profitably receive it.

A GENERAL

CONFESSION AND PRAYER

BEFORE RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT, OR OTHERWISE.

LORD God Almighty! which was, and is, and is to come! Thou art the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God! All perfections adorn Thy nature: every attribute of majesty surrounds Thy throne! Thou dwelleth in that uncreated light, which mortal eye hath not seen, nor can see. Whatsoever pleaseth Thee, that Thou doest in the heavens, and in the earth, and in all deep places. Thou art the Holy One that inhabitest eternity. We are dying sinners. The children of men, generation after generation, return to the dust from whence they were taken; short is our journey from the cradle to the tomb: we carry about with us the sentence of our dissolution, for we have incurred Thy displeasure by sinning against Thee, the Lord our God.

We are transgressors from the birth. We are unworthy to lift up our eyes to

where Thine honour dwelleth, for Thou beholdest the multitude of our iniquities. We have sinned, and what shall we answer unto Thee, O Thou that triest the heart? We have neglected the good which it was in our power to perform, and have done the evil from which we should have abstained. Deaf to the voice of wisdom, we have turned aside to the paths of folly: forgetting heavenly things, we have set our affection on earthly things. When we think upon the talents that we have abused, the opportunities of doing good that we have lost, we tremble at the footstool of Thy justice. We confess our sins to Thee O Lord: our iniquities are now before us. Woe unto us, for we have sinned against Thee! Every way we have sinned; ungrateful for mercies bestowed: insensible of blessings promised: impatient under the smallest evils—our condemnation is aggravated in a tenfold degree, when we think against whom we have sinned! O Thou that madest us, have mercy upon us. O Thou that redeemedst us, intercede for us: be Thou our advocate, for Thou art the Friend of penitent sinners; Thou camest to seek and to save that which was lost.

God of infinite compassion! suppliant at Thy throne we plead for mercy. In the meritorious life, in the atoning death, in the prevalent intercession of our Great High Priest, we place our hopes for help and salvation. Hide not Thy

face. O God, from us: shut not Thine ears against the prayer of the miserable. By Thy goodness which created us: by Thy tender mercies which are over all Thy works; by the love which moved Thee to redeem lost man; by the death of Thine own Son: save us we beseech Thee. Save us O God of mercy, save us from our sins; deliver us out of all our trouble. Our hearts are cast down, and our spirits are disquieted within us: but Thou art mighty to save, and we would still hope in Thee. O send forth Thy light and Thy truth, and let them lead us: perfect within us Thy good work unto eternal life. Have mercy upon us, not for our own sakes, but for the sake of Him whom Thou always lovest—even Thy Son Jesus Christ. Reconcile us unto Thyself through His atoning blood: for His sake, forgive all our iniquities, receive us graciously, and love us freely.

Enable us to turn unto Thee O Lord, with our whole heart, soul, and spirit. May our purposes of amendment, and our endeavours after purity of heart and life, be not like the early dew that soon passes away; but like the morning light that increaseth more and more into perfect day. Teach us to shun every temptation. May we study diligently the laws and commandments of Thee our God. May we be indeed translated from the kingdom of darkness, to the Kingdom of Thy dear Son, and be made heirs of everlasting life. Bestow upon us that faith which

purifieth the heart, and worketh by love. Fill our hearts with that charity which suffereth long and is kind. Inspire us with that wisdom which is from above, which is pure, peaceable, gentle, full of mercy and of good fruits. May we sincerely endeavour at all times to keep a conscience void of offence both towards Thee our God, and also towards man.

For these purposes, O Lord, inspire us with Thy good Spirit, and strengthen us with all might in the inner man: may we exercise that humility which shall be exalted: that mourning which shall be comforted: that sorrow which shall be turned into joy: that purity of heart which shall fit us to see God. Grant that we may persevere with patience, humility, and zeal, unto the end of our course. Grant that when we shall depart this life, we may sleep in the Lord, and awake to a joyful resurrection.

And now our waiting eyes are towards Thee, O God. May the words of our mouths and the meditation of our hearts, be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord our strength and our Redeemer. All these our humble prayers, and earnest petitions we offer up in the name and through the intercession of Christ our Saviour, to whom with Thee, O Father, and Thee, O Holy Spirit, be all praise, and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

A PRAYER

WITH ONE WHO IS SICK, AND WHO INTENDS TO RECEIVE THE SACRAMENT.

O THOU God of all mercy and grace, who so lovedst the world as to give Thine only begotten Son to die for the salvation of sinners, we would praise and bless Thee for this unspeakable gift, which is the only foundation of our hope of acceptance with Thee, and our only plea in approaching the throne of Thy Majesty. Lord, Thou knowest our sinfulness, and our faults are not hid from Thee; we confess our utter unworthiness in Thy sight, and we are amazed at that infinite love and condescension which have done so great things for us miserable sinners. Give us, we beseech Thee, a disposition of heart in some due measure to value Thy mercies, and to rejoice in our privileges: especially, incline our hearts to a conscientious regard for all Thy commands: and as we profess to believe in Thy Son Jesus Christ, and to rest all our hopes of safety, deliverance, and salvation, on Him alone, fill our hearts with holy affections towards Him, and a grateful remembrance of all that He has done and suffered in our behalf. He is our only Saviour, and Redeemer, our Lord, and Master, and to the end that we should bear Him more constantly in mind, He hath instituted and ordained a sacred rite wherein He is plainly set forth as

crucified among us, and by the observance of which, His faithful people do set forth His death till He come again.

We now humbly petition Thee, O Lord, in behalf of this Thy afflicted servant, who desires to supplicate Thy mercy, and to devote *himself* to Thy service, and to approach that holy Table with all humility and gratitude of heart. We trust, O Lord, that Thou hast filled *him* with reverence for this command of *his* dying Saviour: and with a desire of communion with Thee; and of partaking of all the blessings of the new covenant, in Christ our Lord.

Examine *him*, O Lord, and prove *him*: try *him*, and know *his* thoughts; and lead *him* in the way everlasting. Give *him* light and knowledge, and understanding, in the ways of godliness: enable *him* faithfully to examine *his* heart by the rules of Thy Holy Word, and to exercise that true repentance which is not to be repented of. Give *him* a godly sorrow for all *his* past neglects, in not uniting as occasion offered, with Thy people in the public celebration of this holy ordinance; and let *him* now draw near with faith, and receive it to *his* comfort. Thou art merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and of great goodness; reject not, we pray Thee, *his* supplications for Thy pardoning mercy: Thou hast promised to welcome the returning sinner,—receive *him* into Thy family; make *him* one of Thy dear children; and entertain *him* at Thy table.

Let Thy Word and Spirit, O Lord, concur to make *his* way plain before *him*, to scatter *his* doubts, and to increase *his* faith and love. May the views of a crucified Saviour, which this ordinance sets before *him*, deeply impress *his* mind: and a sense of *his* dying love, constrain *him* to give up *himself* more solemnly to Christ than *he* has ever yet done. Lord, show *him* Thy covenant, and help *him* to grow in grace and in knowledge of *his* Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. "Lord, *he* would believe: help Thou *his* unbelief." He desires to be deeply penitent for all *his* offences in thought, word, and deed, against Thy divine Majesty, and pleads the all-perfect atonement which Christ made on the cross, as the ground of *his* hope of forgiveness and acceptance with Thee.

Blessed Saviour, who hast promised that where two or three are gathered together in Thy name, there Thou wilt be in the midst of them; meet us, we pray Thee, Thine unworthy guests, at the table of Thine own providing. Enable us to look unto Thee, that we may be saved from the desert and effects of our sins, and established in faith and godliness. We come to Thee as weary and heavy laden, and desiring to find rest unto our souls. We come unto Thee as hungry, desiring to be fed, although it be but by the crumbs that fall from Thy table. We come unto Thee wounded, and desire to be healed: we come unto Thee

destitute of every good, and desire to receive out of Thy fulness a supply of every want. O, shed abroad Thy love in the heart of this Thy servant, by the gift of Thy Holy Spirit. And O Thou God of all grace, and source of all good, let *him* not be cold and lifeless at the sacred solemnity in which *he* is to commemorate the most glorious love of Thee *his* heavenly Father, and of Jesus *his* compassionate Redeemer! Be with *his* spirit, help *his* infirmities, assist *his* meditations, and unite *his* heart to Thee in everlasting bonds, through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

A PRAYER

THAT MAY BE USED WITH A SICK PERSON AT THE TIME OF HIS RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT.

This Prayer is intended to be used immediately before the collect, "Almighty, everliving God, &c." which commences the office for the Communion of the Sick.

O THOU infinite and eternal Spirit! from whom every good motion of our hearts proceedeth! who both quickenest the dead, and after Thou hast given life, givest the increase: increase, we beseech Thee, the good seeds of Thy grace which, as we trust, Thou hast sown in the heart of this Thy servant, by inclining *him* to receive the Sacrament of the body and blood of our Lord, in which Thou art more immediately present to illuminate the faithful, and

to comfort and refresh all that are weary and heavy-laden with their sins. O cause Thy face, blessed Lord, thus comfortably to shine upon Thine afflicted servant who now intends to draw near to Thee in this Sacrament, as Thou hast commanded us. Be with us and bless us, and lift up the light of Thy countenance upon us: let us be fed with heavenly food, and learn to live evermore unto Thee who gavest Thyself for us, and art our only Saviour, Redeemer, and Advocate, now and for ever. Amen.

COMMUNION OF THE SICK.

¶ *Forasmuch as all mortal men be subject to many sudden perils, diseases and sicknesses, and ever uncertain what time they shall depart out of this life; therefore, to the intent that they be always in a readiness to die whensoever it shall please Almighty God to call them, the Curates shall diligently from time to time (but especially in the time of pestilence, or other infectious sickness) exhort their Parishioners to the often receiving of the holy Communion of the Body and Blood of our Saviour Christ, when it shall be publickly administered in the Church; that so doing, they may in case of sudden visitation, have the less cause to be disquieted for lack of the same. But if the sick person be not able to come to the Church, and yet is desirous to receive the Communion in his house; then he must give timely notice to the Curate, signifying also how many there are to communicate with him (which shall be three, or two at the least,) and having a convenient place in the sick man's house, with all things necessary so prepared, that the Curate may reverently minister, he shall there celebrate the holy Communion, beginning with the Collect, Epistle, and Gospel, here following.*

The Collect.

ALMIGHTY, everliving God, Maker of mankind, who dost correct those whom Thou dost love, and chastise every one whom Thou dost receive; We beseech Thee to have mercy upon this Thy servant visited with Thine hand, and to grant that *he* may take *his* sickness

patiently, and recover *his* bodily health (if it be Thy gracious will:) and whensoever *his* soul shall depart from the body, it may be without spot presented unto Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Epistle. Heb. xii. 5.

MY son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of Him. For whom the Lord loveth, He chasteneth: and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth.

The Gospel. S. John v. 24.

VERILY, verily I say unto you, he that heareth my word, and believeth on Him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

¶ *After which the Priest shall proceed according to the form prescribed for the holy Communion, beginning at these words,* "Ye that do truly, &c."

YE that do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbours, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways: Draw near with faith, and take this holy Sacrament to your comfort; and make your humble confession to Almighty God, meekly kneeling upon your knees.

¶ *Then shall this General Confession be made, the Minister and the communicants kneeling humbly upon their knees.*

ALMIGHTY God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men; We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, Which we from time to time, most grievously have committed, By thought, word, and deed, Against thy Divine Majesty, Provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, And are heartily sorry for these our misdoings: The remembrance of them is grievous unto us: The burthen of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; For thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, Forgive us all that is past: And grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life, To the honour and glory of thy Name, Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

¶ *Then shall the Priest pronounce this Absolution.*

ALMIGHTY God, our heavenly Father, who of His great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all them that with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him; Have mercy upon you; pardon and deliver you from all your sins; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness; and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

¶ *Then shall the Priest say,*

Hear what comfortable words our Saviour Christ saith unto all that truly turn to him.

COME unto me all that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. *St. Mat.* xi. 28.

So God loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. *St. John.* iii. 16.

Hear also what St. Paul saith.

This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received, That Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. 1 *Tim.* i. 15.

Hear also what St. John saith.

If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous,, and he is the propitiation for our sins. 1 *St. John.* ii. 1.

¶ *After which the Priest shall proceed, saying,*

Lift up your hearts.

Answer. We lift them up unto the Lord.

Priest. Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

Answer. It is meet and right so to do.

¶ *Then shall the Priest turn to the table, and say*

IT is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places give thanks unto thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God.

¶ *Then shall immediately follow.*

THEREFORE with Angels and Archangels. and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name ; evermore praising thee, and saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts, heaven and earth are full of thy glory : Glory be to thee, O Lord most High. *Amen.*

¶ *Then shall the Priest kneeling say in the name of all them that shall receive the Communion, this Prayer following.*

WE do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in Thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under Thy Table. But Thou art the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy ; Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of Thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink His blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by His body, and our souls washed through His most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in Him. and He in us. *Amen.*

¶ *When the Priest, standing before the Table, hath so ordered the Bread and Wine, that he may with the more readiness and decency break the Bread, and take the Cup into his hands, he shall say the Prayer of Consecration, as followeth.*

ALMIGHTY God, our heavenly Father, who of Thy tender mercy didst give Thine

only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the Cross for our redemption, who made there (by his one oblation of himself once offered) a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in His holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that His precious death, until His coming again; Hear us, O merciful Father, we most humbly beseech Thee, and grant that we receiving these Thy creatures of bread and wine, according to Thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood: who, in the same night that he was betrayed (a) took Bread, and when he had given thanks, (b) he brake it, and gave it to His disciples, saying, Take, eat, (c) this is my Body which is given for you, Do this in remembrance of me. Likewise after supper (d) He took the Cup, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of this, for this (e) is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you and for many, for the remission of sins: Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me. *Amen.*

(a) *Here the Priest is to take the Paten into his hands:*

(b) *And here to break the Bread:*

(c) *And here to lay his hand upon all the Bread*

(d) *Here he is to take the Cup into his hand*

(e) *And here to lay his hand upon the vessel when contains the Wine to be consecrated*

¶ *The Priest shall first receive the Communion in both kinds himself, and after minister unto them that are appointed to communicate with the sick, and last of all to the sick person. And when he delivereth the Bread to any one, he shall say,*

THE Body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for thee, preserve thy body and soul unto everlasting life. Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for thee, and feed on him in thy heart by faith with thanksgiving.

¶ *And when he delivereth the Cup to any one, he shall say,*

THE Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for thee, preserve thy body and soul unto everlasting life. Drink this in remembrance that Christ's Blood was shed for thee, and be thankful.

¶ *Then shall the Priest say the Lord's Prayer, the Communicants repeating after him every petition.*

OUR Father, which art in heaven; Hallowed be Thy Name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven: Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever, and ever. Amen.

¶ *After shall be said, as followeth.*

O LORD and heavenly Father, we thy humble servants entirely desire Thy fatherly goodness, mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching Thee to grant, that by the merits and death of Thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we and all Thy whole Church may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion. And here we offer and present unto Thee, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies to be a reasonable, holy, and lively sacrifice unto Thee; humbly beseeching Thee, that all we, who are partakers of this holy Communion, may be fulfilled with Thy grace and heavenly benediction. And although we be unworthy through our manifold sins, to offer unto Thee any sacrifice: yet we beseech Thee to accept this our bounden duty and service: not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offences, through Jesus Christ our Lord: by whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honour and glory be unto Thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. *Amen.*

¶ *Or this.*

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, we most heartily thank Thee, for that Thou dost vouchsafe to feed us, who have duly received these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of

the most precious body and blood of Thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of Thy favour and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of Thy Son, which is the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs through hope of Thy everlasting kingdom, by the merits of the most precious death and passion of Thy dear Son. And we most humbly beseech Thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with Thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as Thou hast prepared for us to walk in, through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with Thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

¶ *Then shall be said or sung;*

GLORY be to God on high, and in earth peace, good will towards men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only begotten Son Jesu Christ: O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

For Thou only art holy, Thou only art Lord, Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. *Amen.*

¶ *Then shall the Minister pronounce this blessing.*

THE peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord: And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

¶ *In the time of the Plague, Sweat, or such other like contagious times of sickness or diseases, when none of the Parish or neighbours can be gotten to communicate with the sick in their houses, for fear of the infection, upon special request of the diseased the Minister may only communicate with him*

A FORM OF

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION,

WHICH MAY BE USED WITH ANY ONE WHEN THE SACRAMENT CANNOT CONVENIENTLY BE ADMINISTERED TO HIM.

¶ *But if a man, either by reason of extremity of sickness, or for want of warning in due time to the Curate, or for lack of company to receive with him, or by any other just impediment, do not receive the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood, the Curate shall instruct him, that if he do truly repent him of his sins, and stedfastly believe that Jesus Christ hath suffered death on the Cross for him, and shed his Blood for his redemption, earnestly remembering the benefits he hath thereby, and giving him hearty thanks therefore, he doth eat and drink the Body and Blood of our Saviour Christ profitably to his Soul's health, although he do not receive the Sacrament with his mouth.*

O THOU that art the God of ordinances, and who hast in condescension to our infirmities, appointed outward and visible signs of spiritual things, to be the means of grace to our souls, we may justly expect Thy blessing to accompany the right use of what Thou hast ordained, and we feel in duty bound to be exact in our attention to Thy commands, in reference to those sacred rites, which Thy authority has enjoined: yet because, O Lord, by reason of the inconveniences to which we are subject in this imperfect state, we cannot always do the things

that we would, and because we desire to be partakers of the blessings and comforts which Thy people derive from the commemoration of the Lord's death, as He has commanded us: we desire Thee of Thy Fatherly goodness, mercifully to accept such a sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, as we are at this time, in a condition to offer.

Fain would we draw near to Thy Holy Table, O blessed Jesus, in the assembly of Thy people, and partake of the sacred elements as Thou hast commanded us: fain would we see with our eyes, Thee set forth crucified among us, and partake of that bread, and drink of that cup, which Thou hast ordained as a mysterious representation of Thy body given, and of Thy blood shed, for our salvation; but as at this time of our desire, it cannot be so, accept us, O Lord, according to that we have, and not according to that we have not. What Thou hast not given, that Thou dost require; graciously therefore, regard the desires of our souls, and say, "according to your faith, be it unto you." Lord, we would believe; help thou our unbelief. Lord, we would acknowledge our sins in thought, word, and deed against the Majesty of heaven: we have sinned, O Lord, and done foolishly; plead for us, we pray Thee, and obtain for us access to Thy Father who is in heaven.

Lord of heaven and earth! we draw near unto Thee, in Thy Son's Jesus Christ's name; we plead His merits, His all-sufficient sacrifice, for

a full and free forgiveness for all our past transgressions. We are unworthy of such a Saviour; we are unworthy of the least of Thy favours; we are undeserving of the least crumb that falls from Thy table; but Thou art the same Lord who gavest Thine only begotten Son to die for us, and to be our spiritual food and sustenance, and whose property is ever to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so "by faith, to eat the flesh of Thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink His blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by His body, and our souls washed through His most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in Him and He in us." He did institute, and in His Holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of His precious death, until His coming again: Lord, grant that though at this time, we are precluded from an actual participation of the sacred elements according to His holy institution, we may nevertheless, obtain an interest in the perfect, and sufficient sacrifice and oblation, which He once offered for the sins of the whole world: grant that we may feed on Him in our hearts by faith, with thanksgiving: grant that through faith in His blood, we may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of His passion. Enable us at this time to offer and present unto Thee, O Lord, ourselves, our souls, and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and lively sacrifice unto Thee: and although we be unworthy through our manifold sins, to offer unto Thee any sacrifice, yet we

beseech Thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offences, through Jesus Christ our Lord. We desire to take shelter under the shadow of the Redeemer's cross: and to be found in Him, clothed with that righteousness of His, which is sufficient to cover all our deformity, and to fill up all our defects.

O God of all grace! give us, we beseech Thee, a saving interest in that great redemption which Thy beloved Son has wrought for a ruined world, by his cross and passion, that our souls may magnify the Lord, and our spirits rejoice in God our Saviour. O help us to count all things but loss, for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus, our Lord. Enable us so to believe, that Christ may dwell in our hearts. By the inspiration of Thy Holy Spirit, fill our souls with such a lively sense of Thy love, as displayed in the death and mediation of Thy Son, that we may ever gratefully remember that inestimable benefit, and so love Thee as to cleave to Thee with full purpose of heart, desiring an entire conformity to Thy holy will. May the love of Thee be so shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost, that we may be filled with love to others, forgiving them, as we hope to be forgiven, and loving them, even as Christ loved us.

Give us a delightful sense of communion with all true believers, and of our common union to Christ, the head of the Church, and of our fellowship with him, and with each other. We

THE MINISTRATION OF
PRIVATE BAPTISM OF CHILDREN
IN HOUSES.

¶ *First, let the Minister of the Parish, (or in his absence, any other lawful Minister that can be procured,) with them that are present, call upon God, and say the Lord's Prayer, and so many of the Collects appointed to be said before in the Form of Public Baptism, as the time and present exigence will suffer.*

OUR Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name; Thy kingdom come: Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven: Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. Amen.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who of Thy great mercy didst save Noah and his family in the ark from perishing by water, and also didst safely lead the children of Israel Thy people through the Red Sea, figuring thereby Thy holy Baptism; and by the Baptism of Thy well-beloved Son Jesus Christ in the river Jordan didst sanctify Water to the mystical washing away of sin; We beseech Thee for Thine infinite mercies that Thou wilt mercifully look upon *this Child;* wash *him* and sanctify *him* with the Holy Ghost, that *he* being delivered

from Thy wrath, may be received into the ark of Christ's Church; and being stedfast in faith, joyful through hope, and rooted in charity, may so pass the waves of this troublesome world, that finally *he* may come to the land of everlasting life: there to reign with Thee, world without end, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

ALMIGHTY and immortal God, the aid of all that need, the helper of all that flee to Thee for succour, the life of them that believe, and the resurrection of the dead; We call upon Thee for *this Infant*, that *he* coming to Thy holy Baptism, may receive remission of *his* sins by spiritual regeneration. Receive *him*, O Lord, as Thou hast promised by Thy well-beloved Son, saying, Ask, and ye shall receive; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: so give now unto us that ask; let us that seek, find; open the gate unto us that knock; that *this Infant* may enjoy the everlasting benediction of Thy heavenly washing, and may come to the eternal kingdom which Thou hast promised by Christ our Lord. Amen.

ALMIGHTY everliving God, whose most dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of our sins, did shed out of his most precious side both water and blood, and gave commandment to his disciples, that they should go teach all nations, and baptize them In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of

the Holy Ghost; Regard, we beseech Thee, our supplications, sanctify this Water to the mystical washing away of sin: and grant that *this Child*, now to be baptized therein, may receive the fulness of Thy grace, and ever remain in the number of Thy faithful and elect children, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ *Then the Child being named by some one that is present, the Minister shall pour water upon it, saying these words,*

N. I baptize thee In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. *Amen.*

Then all kneeling down, the Minister shall give thanks unto God, and say,

WE yield Thee hearty thanks, most merciful Father, that it hath pleased Thee to regenerate this Infant with Thy holy Spirit: to receive *him* for Thine own Child by adoption, and to incorporate *him* into Thy holy Church. And we humbly beseech Thee to grant, that as *he* is now made partaker of the death of Thy Son, so *he* may be also of his resurrection: and that finally, with the residue of Thy Saints, *he* may inherit Thine everlasting kingdom, through the same, Thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A PRAYER

IN BEHALF OF A SICK INFANT.

O LORD! the Father of mercies, great is Thy condescension and goodness towards us Thine unworthy creatures. We earnestly desire, at this time to supplicate Thy help and compassion in behalf of this poor, helpless infant. We know that Thy providence extends to the smallest things, and that not even a sparrow falleth to the ground without Thee; we know also that Thou art infinite in goodness as well as in greatness, and that Thy tender mercies are over all Thy works; we would, therefore, fly to Thy tender mercy in Christ Jesus, in all our troubles, and beseech Thee to hear our supplications for His name's sake.

Look with Thy wonted compassion, O Lord, on this poor, weak, and suffering creature, who has scarcely drawn the breath of life, and yet seems to be near the gates of death. We would believe, O Almighty Father, that Thou knowest best what is fit both for it and for us, and that Thou wilt do what is best for both; but yet, if it be Thy blessed will to hear our requests in this matter, we would intreat Thee to listen to our prayers, and to spare its life for Thy mercy's sake. Spare it, good Lord, to the desires and affections of its sorrowing parents; let it revive, and look upon the light of the sun, and

be preserved to serve Thee by a life of obedience to Thy blessed will.

Gracious Redeemer! who didst condescend to receive and bless little children, take into Thy protection this little one, whom we have lately presented to Thee, and dedicated to Thy service. Intercede for it, that it may live, and may grow in grace, as it grows in years, and learn to believe in Thee, and to serve Thee faithfully, so that all its days here on earth, may be spent to Thy glory. But if it must not be so:—if Thou, O infinite and eternal Father, hast determined thus speedily to recal the life which Thou gavest, we entreat Thee, for Thy beloved Son's sake, to receive the soul of this infant into the number of that happy company who are washed and made white in the blood of the Lamb, and who are taken in mercy from a world of sin and sorrow, and are made rejoicing spirits before Thy glorious throne in heaven.

In the meantime, O Lord, we intreat Thee to pity its bodily sufferings, and the sorrows of those who are afflicted with it and for it, and grant that we may ever submit with meekness and resignation to Thy wise disposal of all our affairs, and under a deep sense of our sinfulness in Thy sight, look only for Thy mercy and favour in Jesus Christ, who is our only Mediator, Saviour, and Redeemer: to whom with Thee and the Holy Spirit, we desire to ascribe all praise and adoration, for evermore. Amen.

A PRAYER

WITH A WOMAN AFTER CHILD-BIRTH, WHO IS STILL IN DANGER.

O ALMIGHTY Lord God, the help of all that place their hopes in Thee; the support of the weak and the Saviour of them who are ready to perish; we humbly entreat Thee for Thy great goodness' sake, and for Thy loving mercy's sake in Christ our Lord, to look with an eye of pity upon this Thy servant, who is now reduced to a state of great weakness of body. Lord, be graciously pleased to consider her low estate, and by Thy mighty power deliver he soul from death, her eyes from tears, and her feet from falling. Gracious art Thou and merciful! Thou forgivest iniquity, transgression and sin; Thou healest our souls; Thou art the hope of our lives, and the length of our days; we pray Thee, therefore, to help this Thy servant, who is in so much need of Thy grace and assistance. Mercifully regard her prayers; assuage her pain; quiet and compose her thoughts; and lay no more upon her than Thou wilt enable her patiently to endure. O let Thy mercy and power be further shown in her perfect recovery from this state of weakness and pain. Hitherto Thou hast sustained her,—perfect Thou that which concerneth her: and let her not be lost,

after the great things which Thou hast already done for her. Restore unto her, O Lord, the joy of thy salvation, and uphold her with Thy free spirit; deliver her from this great affliction, that she may live to give Thee praise in the congregation of Thy people.

Lord, regard the anxieties and prayers of those who are near and dear to her; take her not away in the midst of her days: but spare her to her sorrowing friends, and restore her to such a degree of health and strength as may enable her to fulfil the duties of her station, so that she may have time to set her house in order, and to make a more solemn preparation for appearing before Thee. We would plead with Thee for this mercy; we would ask it of Thee in the name of Jesus Christ; we would entreat Thee to spare this our sister a little time, that she may recover her strength, before she goes hence, and is no more seen. We know that Thou canst do this great thing for us, if it be Thy good pleasure; speak the word only, and Thy servant shall be healed; but still, we know, O Lord, that it is our duty to submit our will to Thine: enable us, therefore, in meek submission of heart to say, "Thy will be done." If it be possible, gracious Father! let this cup pass away from us; but, nevertheless, we would add with Thy suffering Son,—"not our will, but Thine be done!"

Dispose us then humbly and reverently to acquiesce in all Thy wise appointments, and to

say under every trial, "It is the Lord,—let Him do as it seemeth Him good:" and dispose the heart of this our sister, above all things, to seek Thy mercy and favour in Christ Jesus, which is better than life. Enable her to resign herself entirely to Thy will, and to rest all her hopes of safety and salvation, in Jesus Christ, her Saviour. Perfect her repentance; increase her faith; wash her from all her sins; let her be arrayed in the righteousness of Thy blessed Son, who is all our salvation; so that whether she lives or dies, she may be in a state of peace and reconciliation with Thee, and may be prepared for that rest and happiness, which Thou hast prepared for them that truly love and fear Thee. All this, and every mercy and blessing we humbly ask, in the name, and through the mediation of Jesus Christ, our merciful High-Priest, and compassionate Redeemer, who ever liveth to make intercession for us. Amen.